

ActionAid Cambodia NewsLetter

August 2022



Tina Redshaw, UK ambassador, impressed by Women Champion's Works

ActionAid Cambodia is honored and delighted to arrange a visit for Ambassador Tina to meet our Women Champion in Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change (DRR/CC) and visit Trapaeng Sangke and Kampong Samaki Fishery Community.

Listening to the life experience of the women champion, she was impressed by their dedication to raising awareness of climate change risks and their promotion of greater community resilience. Ambassador was proud of their works and looking forward to seeing more women like them in Cambodian society.

Following Ambassador Tina's meeting with the inspirational women climate champion, she visited Trapaeng Sangke and Kampong Samaki Community Fishery. The two fishery communities are dense mangrove forest and biodiversity, which plays a critical role in supporting the rich marine ecosystem and the people's livelihood.



Meeting with Women Champions



Visiting Trapaeng Sangke Community



Visiting Kampong Samaki Community



Varou shortlisted as one the Rising Star Award Finalists by UNDRR LEADERSHIP 2022

“Everyone has to work in solidarity in order to reduce disaster risk. It cannot be done successfully by just one party alone. All relevant parties can motivate, spread, work together, seek solutions and respond to crises. Disasters are hard to manage, so everyone has to be involved in this matter to make it easy to implement activities without interruptions,” said Varou.

ActionAid Cambodia is delighted and proud of Mrs. Mat Varou, Woman Champion of Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change (DRR/CC) from Kampot Province, who has been shortlisted as one of 10 finalists for the Rising Star Award by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) recently.

Varou says the solution is to “empower all female leaders of all levels in order to achieve gender equality. Give the rights to women in decision-making and delegate authority and responsibility to women. Give them the opportunity to be involved in every activity.”

In 2016, Varou influenced local authorities to establish an Early Warning System. In 2021, she mobilised community and local authorities to put in place key infrastructure for disaster preparedness such as installing culverts to divert floods; commune road rehabilitation; repairing bridges, and rehabilitating drainage.

As someone who is passionate about the environment and DRR, Varou has been active in planting mangroves and mangrove conservation and has educated community members on the benefits of mangroves and a clean environment.



Background:

Asia and the Pacific is the most disaster-prone region in the world. Women across the region are helping us to understand, prevent and reduce the risk of disasters we face. These inspiring women are the 12 finalists for the 2022 Rising Star Women’s International Network for Disaster Risk Reduction Leadership Award. From the 420 nominations received, the diversity of their stories reflects the breadth of solutions required to meet the challenges of climate change and increasingly intense disasters in the region.

The **WIN DRR Leadership Awards** recognise women's achievements in DRR across the Asia-Pacific region. The awards are part of UNDRR's flagship women's leadership initiative the Women's International Network for Disaster Risk Reduction (WIN DRR), supported by Australian Aid. There are two award categories, the Excellence Award, proudly sponsored by SM Prime, and the Rising Star Award. There are twelve finalists for the Rising Star Award, shortlisted from 420 nominations received from across 24 countries in the Asia-Pacific.



តើនរណាជាស្ត្រីឆ្នើម?

ស្ត្រីឆ្នើម ជាស្ត្រីដែលត្រូវបានជ្រើសរើសមក ពីស្ត្រីស្ម័គ្រចិត្តនៅក្នុងមូលដ្ឋាន និងជាស្ត្រីក្នុង គ្រួសារនៅក្នុងតំបន់ក្រោមជាតិដើម្បីចូលរួមចំណែក ក្នុងការអនុវត្តសកម្មភាព ភាពធន់ទៅនឹង ការប្រែប្រួលអាកាសធាតុដែលឆ្លើយតបទៅនឹង យេនឌ័រនៅក្នុងសហគមន៍មូលដ្ឋានរបស់ខ្លួន។



Who are Women Champions?

Women Champions are selected from women volunteers in the community and women from sub-national levels to contribute to climate change resilience for responding to GENDER in local communities.

National Disaster Risk Reduction Day Celebration

Mrs. Bun Panharith, Chair of Pursat Provincial Women Champion, on 13th July 2022, attended 29th National Disaster Risk Reduction Forum and presented the key achievements of DRR of Women Champion.

National Committee on Disaster Management (NCDM) this year organized the forum under the "Sendai Framework" for DRR in Cambodia" theme.

The "Sendai Framework," which was established during the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in 2015 in Sendai, Japan, and established the worldwide objectives of disaster risk reduction, was also covered during this year's national event.

In response to its Sendai Framework commitments, over the past five years, the NCDM, ministries, governmental organizations, subnational governments, the Cambodian Red Cross, all partner organizations, and the private sector have implemented numerous projects and made significant advancements in Cambodia's disaster risk reduction efforts.

According to the NCDM's report, in the first six months of 2022, there were 61 lightning strikes, which damaged 11 houses, killed 32 people, injured 26, and killed 69 cattle.





ពិធីសម្ពោធជាក់ឱ្យប្រើប្រាស់ជាផ្លូវការនូវកម្មវិធីទូរស័ព្ទដៃ «មតិយើង»

OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE MOBILE APP "MATE YERNG"



ងាយស្រួលប្រើប្រាស់ រក្សាការសម្ងាត់ និងរួមចំណែកធ្វើឱ្យសេវាសាធារណៈកាន់តែប្រសើរឡើង។



ActionAid and its partners inaugurate mobile application for public service complaints

28th July 2022 marks the official launch of the "Our Voice" mobile application, a new tool for citizens to provide feedback, including making a complaint, about public services at the sub-national level in Cambodia. Jointly developed by the Ministry of Interior (Mol), Transparency International Cambodia (TI Cambodia), and ActionAid Cambodia (AAC).

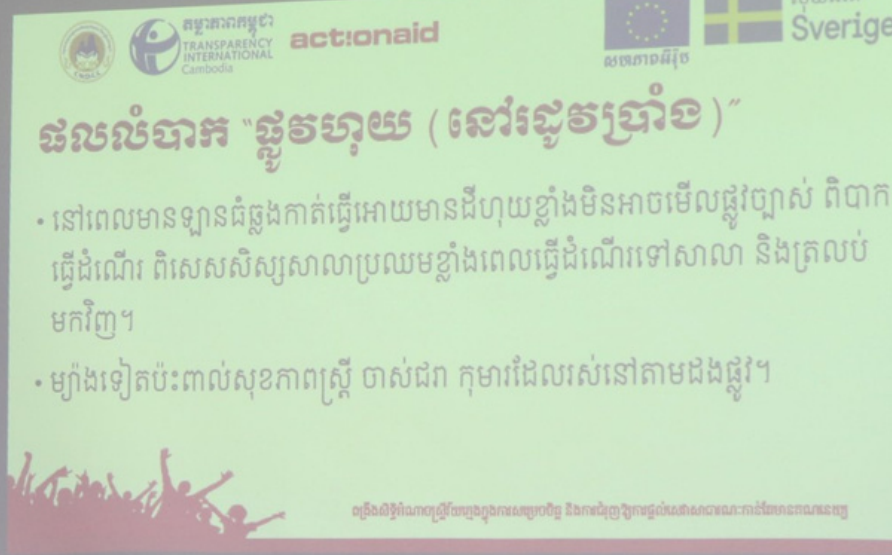
"Our Voice" mobile application is a free, user-friendly, and confidential mechanism for the public to make complaints, seek support, ask for information, and evaluate public services in their localities. The aim was to contribute toward building a more transparent, inclusive, and accountable public service in Cambodia, particularly gender-responsive public services.

"This official launch of the "Our Voices" mobile application marks another important milestone toward effective public services in Cambodia. Given the high rates of smartphone and internet penetration in the country, the introduction and implementation of this mobile application could not have come at a better time.

The mobile application will offer citizens, especially youths a modern yet simple and easy-to-use platform to interact and communicate their concerns and needs with public service providers, thereby enhancing good governance and accountable and responsive public service delivery in the country." Mr. Pech Pisey, Executive Director of TI Cambodia.

The "Our Voice" mobile application project is part of a broader EU and Sida funded cooperation framework between Mol, TI Cambodia, and ActionAid Cambodia to facilitate citizen feedback and responses from public service providers and ultimately strengthen local governance and accountability gender-responsive public services (GRPS). The three institutions have been working together to improve the capacity of public officials of the Ministry of Interior and targeted sub-national service providers of One-Window Service Offices/Units and Ombudsmen Offices as well as targeted communes and sangkats on accountable and gender-responsive public service delivery and build the capacity of youth, especially young women, and providing them platforms to engage in dialogues and monitoring of public service delivery at targeted areas. The cooperation framework also prioritises the conduct of multi-stakeholder dialogues at sub-national and national levels to address citizens' concerns and feedback on public service delivery and facilitate policy responses. Download (App Name) from App Store (iPhone) or Google Play (Android) via

<https://www.ticambodia.org/ourvoices/>



Community Challenges are brought to local authority through the youth's charter of demands

As part of the Greater Young Women Empowerment in Decision Making and Accountable Public Service Delivery Project, with the financial support of the European Union in Cambodia and the Embassy of Sweden Section Office in Phnom Penh, ActionAid Cambodia and Transparency International Cambodia in collaboration with partners organised series of consultative workshop on the Youth's Charter of Demands in five provinces where the project has been implementing.

In southwestern Cambodia, Kampot Province, in a consultative workshop on the youth's charter of demands, youth representatives presented the challenges in the community, which were mainly classified into four categories: social safety & security, gender-responsive infrastructure, public administration, and public order. During the workshop, the local authority who attended the workshop acknowledged and appreciated the youth's participation.

Youth representatives have also raised several significant challenges in a consultative workshop in Kampong Thom, located at the central point of Cambodia. Cambodia's rapid economic growth in recent decades can be attributed to one substance: sand. Homes are built with it, islands created, and wetlands filled. The issue is not an exception in Kampong Thom Province. The youth representatives wish to see concrete action to prevent the risks of environmental interruption.

Besides, LGBTQs discrimination, Gender Based Violence (GBV), and drug trafficking were also listed as the priority for the local authority to respond to.



Youth's charter of demands is part of the activity under Greater Young Women Empowerment in Decision Making and Accountable Public Service Delivery Project, the issues presented by the youth who witnessed and drafted the demands with the support of the NGO partners on the ground; they then presented the issues/ challenges and verified with the community before submitting them to the local authority.

Further issues/ challenges raised by youth representative, can be also found on [**Thmey Thmey's website.**](#)

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