



SPCR NEWS-Cambodia



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Department of Climate Change
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Consultation to Prioritize Adaptation Projects for Proposal Development

On March 21 2018, the Department of Climate Change (DCC) under the General Secretariat of National Council for Sustainable Development convened a consultation workshop on Prioritization of Adaptation Projects in six provinces (Pursat, Battambang, Kampong Chhnang, Kampong Thom, Prey Veng, and Tboung Khmum). The workshop chaired by H.E. E Vuthy, Deputy Secretariat General of the General Secretariat of National Council for Sustainable Development was held in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, the Ministry of Public Works and Transport, the Ministry of Rural Development, the Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology, and other relevant agencies.

The DCC facilitated the development of the initial feasibility studies for six Adaptation Projects by the cross sectoral Adaptation Working Group, with support from the Mainstreaming Climate Resilience into Development Planning Technical Assistance (MCRDP- TA Package A).



H.E. E Vuthy (Center), Deputy Secretary General of General Secretariat of NCS, Dr. Tauch Chan Kresna (L), Deputy Director General of Ministry of Economic and Finance, and Dr. Peter-John Meynell (R), Team Leader, attend the workshop



Dr. Peter-John Meynell, Team Leader, presents climate change adaptation funds

The Adaptation Projects are multi-sector initiatives which respond to the priority sectors identified under the SPCR: agriculture, water resources, urban

development and transport. Over two years, each feasibility study involved series of consultations with relevant ministries, the concerned provincial authorities and local communities. Analyses and preliminary measures to address social safeguards, environment, gender and social inclusion were integrated into the feasibility findings.

Participants from national and sub-national levels representing each sector were engaged in interactive sessions to prioritize projects through scoring against international climate change fund criteria and group technical discussion. The scoring resulted in the following three projects being highest ranked:

Battambang Western Greenbelt Adaptation Project (Battambang Province): This project is expected to reduce economic and social losses from flood and drought damages, increase and stabilize agriculture incomes, and improve the health status and amenity access of Battambang's residents in the face of climate change. The outcome of the project is a more climate-resilient and community-friendly urban and peri-urban environment in eight communes of Battambang municipality.



Mr. Nom Sophearith, Adaptation Project Development Expert, presents Western Greenbelt Adaptation Project in Battambang town

Climate-Smart Infrastructure and Agriculture Project (Tboung Khmum Province): This project will lead to reduced vulnerability to climate change of people (in particular the most vulnerable groups) and critical systems (natural and societal) in Tboung Khmum province. The project outcome will be increased climate resilience of rural livelihoods in three flood- and drought-affected districts (Dambae, Tboung Khmum and Krouch Chhmar) of Tboung Khmum province.

Livelihood Resilience Improvement Project (Kampong Chhnang Province): This project will enhance resilience of vulnerable populations and critical systems (natural and societal) in Kampong Leng district, Kampong Chhnang province in line with the Government's Cambodia Climate Change Strategic Plan 2014 – 2023. The project's outcome will be enhanced climate resilience of the agricultural value chain (production, transport, market access and services) in Kampong Leng district.



A view during the workshop



Group discussion to score the projects

Three other projects were also considered. They were:

Dannak Chheukrom Irrigation Adaptation Project (Battambang and Pursat Provinces): This project will contribute to reduced vulnerability, improved livelihoods and reduced poverty of nearly 75,000 people living in the project's command and watershed areas in Pursat and Battambang provinces. The outcome of the project will be more climate-resilient and safer communities in Veal Veng, Phnum Kravanh, Bakan and Rukhak Kiri districts. This will be achieved through improved water resources management and distribution for irrigation, and watershed rehabilitation.

Adaptive Water Management for Agriculture (Prey Veng Province): The impact of this project will be more climate-resilient rural livelihoods in Prey Veng province. The outcome of the project is strengthened agricultural systems based on more effective and efficient water resources management practices.

Adaptation through Commercialized Agriculture Pilot Project (Kampong Thom Province): The project's main emphasis is on the introduction of improved water management systems linked to climate-smart agriculture technologies. The expected impact of the project is higher farm incomes and more climate-resilient rural livelihoods. The outcome of the project is climate-smart agriculture and value chains in Kampong Thom.

All six projects were considered of high quality and worthy of support for implementation. Now, the DCC

with support from the MCRDP TA Package A will follow up with target ministries and potential implementing agencies. The remaining steps include assessing criteria #7 – Commitment of executing agency to support proposal development and criteria #8 – Interest from an accredited climate financing agency. Once the scoring is complete, the MCRDP TA team will work with relevant ministries and organizations

accredited with target climate change funds to develop two projects into concept papers and full proposals. For non-shortlisted projects, the MCRDP TA team will assist ministries to identify development partners and use the extensive information contained in the feasibility studies to move the projects towards funding and implementation.

SPCR Cambodia's Civil Society Mechanism Achieves Important Results

On March 20 2018, 19 Civil Society Organizations and Plan International in Cambodia gathered in Kampot Province to reflect on the performance of the Strategic Program for Climate Resilience Civil Society Mechanism. The event was an opportunity to review results, best practices, recommendations, and measures needed to scale up of the civil society projects at local level through CSO, development partners and government collaboration.

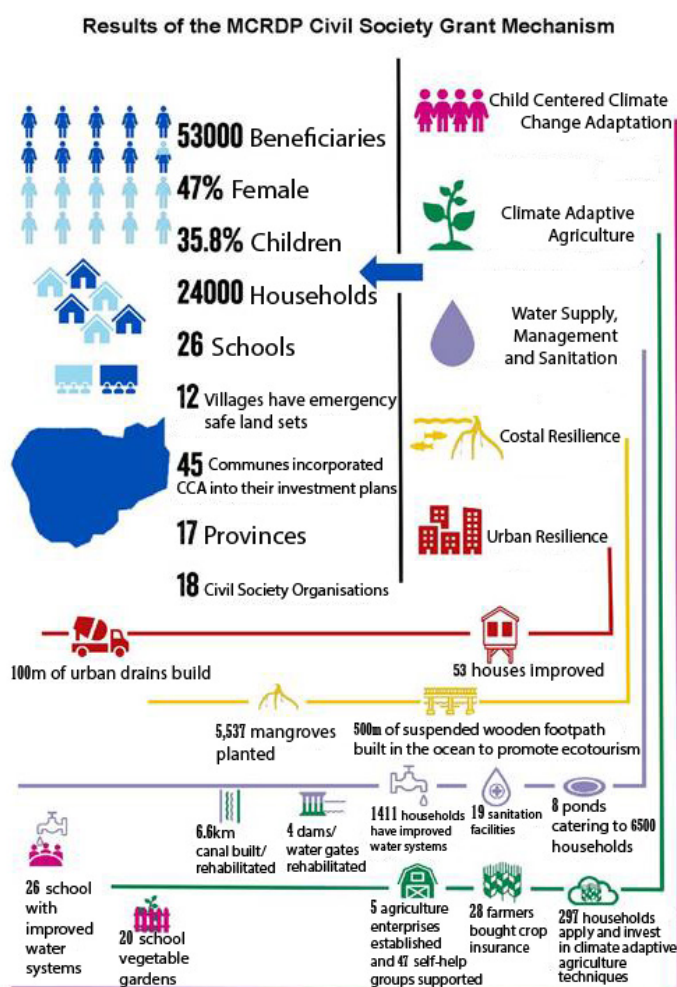
The Completion Workshop was mostly internal, and was attended by a total of 55 people (20 women) including donor representatives, Plan International representatives, CSO partners, and local community counterparts. Several project CSO partners were accompanied by counterpart village leaders, water supply committee members, and/or school teachers etc., who contributed meaningful insights and responses to questions about work on the ground.

The workshop reflected on the work done and impact achieved since July 2016, when the program's subgrant projects started on the ground. Over the course of two days of field visits, program result presentations, CSO project reviews and group discussions, participants demonstrated, witnessed, and shared lessons, on how the various community-based adaptation projects funded under the program improved community adaptive capacity, and contributed to building resilience to climate change. Over two years the CSOs were able to make important contributions to Cambodia's response to climate change.

Participants first visited two project sights on March 19th:

- A chicken hatchery set up by Sovann Phoum in Tram Kak, Takeo Province, as part of the CSSM program. The chicken hatchery supports the local community by providing them with stronger chicken that are more resistant to diseases more common with floods and droughts, and promoting better vaccination practices, the hatchery is equipped with two incubator machines.
- A community-run, ecotourism centre in Trapeang Sangke, Kampot Province which CSO partner

Children and Women Development Center in Cambodia (CWDC) has supported with mangrove restoration, natural resources preservation initiatives and support infrastructure, such as a 500m wooden bridge over the coastal waters.



By drawing tourism interests to the area, this bridge near the Mangrove swamps helps promote mangrove conservation, helps raise funds for further conservation and fishery protection activities, and provides the local community with an alternate source of income. Workshop participants planted 50 mangrove saplings in the ocean to support the initiative.

During workshop discussions, participants noted that the CSSM program had a positive impact on awareness of climate change in communities;

improved infrastructure in vulnerable urban neighbourhoods, improved technical skills among beneficiary farmers, provided income security through livelihood diversification, and increased access to water and sanitation in homes and schools in rural Cambodia. The program also made some progress towards making commune investment plans more climate adaptive and CAA/DRR projects more inclusive.

There was consensus among the participants that the process of adaptation to climate change takes time, and while the CSO projects provided solid groundwork, continued efforts are required towards empowering communities and increasing their resilience to climate change.

Participant reflections

Relevance

- The project interventions were based on community VRAs and were hence able to cater to what the community felt was important for adaptation, giving special attention to the needs of women and children.
- The program design was in line with the national development plans and climate change related priorities of various government ministries

Efficiency

- The CSOs were able to maximize the use of limited funds through proper planning, collaboration with local authorities and private companies when necessary, responsive programming when challenges occurred or priorities shifted, and volunteer support from the community and from youth volunteers mobilised with the project.

Effectiveness

- While the duration of the projects is too short to properly gauge the impact of the various interventions.
- The communities largely felt more equipped to handle climate related issues.
- CSOs were able to achieve most of the short-term goals that they had set out to achieve.

Sustainability

- Given the limited timeframe of the projects. The sustainability of the interventions will depend heavily on the motivation of the community and local authorities
- To ensure community ownership, the CSOs involved the local authorities and community

members in the planning and implementation of the interventions. The project engaged with and supported close to 60 various community leadership and activity groups on different topics and sectors, of which on average 55% of members were women.

Participating CSOs produced a number of Knowledge Products with technical supports from Plan International and ADB. Reports, videos and awareness materials are available on: coastal resilience, climate smart agriculture, resilience in water supply and urban planning, gender and development, effective mainstreaming of adaptation and disaster risk reduction into civil society organizations and other topics. These publications will be available soon on SPCR website www.spcrcambodia.org

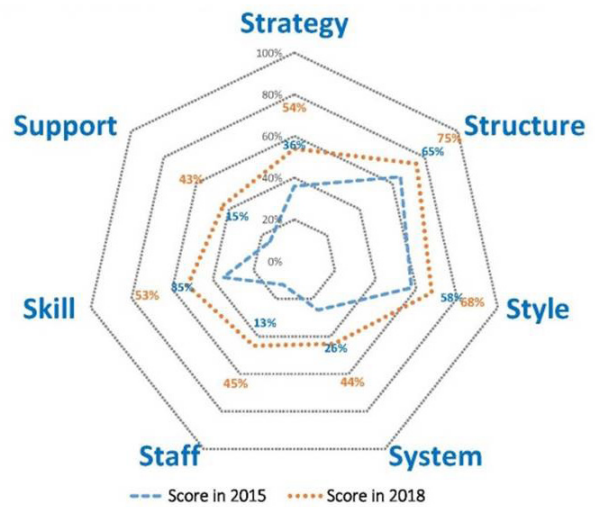
During the workshop, participants highlighted a number of recommendations on future adaptation efforts:

- Increasing actions that support CSOs to be actively involved in national programs and networks on climate change and disaster risk reduction.
- Closer cooperation between CSOs and government to improve and follow national guidelines on mainstreaming DRR/CCA into development plans.
- More cooperation and coordination between CSOs and sub-national governments to enhance efforts to integrate DRR/CCA into local development plans especially in rural and remote areas.
- Increased technical support from the Department of Agriculture, forestry and fisheries and the Department of Environment and CSOs to test and implement new climate resilient techniques.
- Increased resources for sub-national levels – especially commune level – to develop and implement adaptation solutions appropriate to their area – with the accompaniment of CSOs.
- Enhanced efforts among existing donor and development partner to continue, scale up and extend DRR/CCA programs in vulnerable and disaster prone areas.
- More investment by donors and development partners for long term of CCA programming along with continued capacity building of CSOs to support sub-national levels in implementing monitoring, evaluating and advising on CCA and DRR techniques.

Midterm Capacity Assessment for the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

On February 28 2018, the MCRDP Technical Assistance Package A facilitated a roundtable meeting to support the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries to review their progress in building institutional capacity for climate change adaptation. The session involved revisiting the 7S capacity needs assessment questionnaires first completed in May 2015. The 7S questionnaire asks a series of questions about Strategy, Structure, Style, Systems, Staff, Skills and Support from which a capacity scoring diagram can be developed. Above are the 7S spider diagrams for MAFF, comparing progress from 2015 to 2017. This information can assist MAFF in identifying priorities for enhancing adaptation capacity within their institution, policies and programs and assist in targeting support under the SPCR or other programs.

Summary of Capacity Assessment Spider Chart-MAFF



Meeting at Ministry of Agriculture, the Forestry and Fisheries

CSO Groups Review Master Plan on Gender and Climate Change

On February 14 2018, MCRDP Technical Assistance Package C presented the Master Plan on Gender and Climate Change (2018-2030) to a technical NGOs/CSOs group named JAG DRR/CCA (Joint Action Group for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation). Participants included 17 national and international NGOs members of JAG, a thematic technical agency that provides recommendations and technical support to government initiatives on DRR and CCA. CSOs made contributions to the master plan development through a total of three consultations, including previous sessions in Siem Reap and Phnom Penh.



The NCDDS Training Activities

Output 1 of the NCDDS Component of TA 8179, Package C, is 'institutional and technical capacity of sub-national governments in mainstreaming climate resilience improved'. Accordingly, a comprehensive training program is in progress, with 24 sessions conducted so far.

The program is structured into 4 modules:

- project orientation, including climate change in Cambodia and the agenda for adaptation (completed in 2017);
- vulnerability analysis and risk screening as part of the planning and budget process (in progress);
- climate resilience in project design and implementation (recently initiated); and
- monitoring and evaluation of adaptation capacity (planned for June 2018).

Presentations and facilitation are provided by the TA team, by staff from NCDDS and the province departments, and by various resource persons.

During the training, the participants not only learn from the facilitators, but they also learn from each other; and the facilitators, in turn, learn from the participants with their particular site- and sector-specific insight. The plenary and group discussions provide particular vehicles for sharing knowledge and experience. Hereby, the training activities interact positively with the preparation of knowledge products, and with the identification and scoping of pilot and demonstration projects.

The sub-national representatives understand and appreciate the objectives of TA 8179 Package C as such and of its NCDDS component in particular, including the modalities and multiple benefits of climate change adaptation (CCA) and disaster risk reduction (DRR) mainstreaming into sub-national development planning and investment programming.

They are well informed about the various site-specific climate-related pressures and impacts, but less well informed about viable adaptation options and opportunities.

The training sessions are appreciated by the participants, with consistent high ratings of interest and relevance in the anonymous feedback questionnaire surveys conducted at the end of each session.



Climate Change Capacity Building at Sub-national Level

On January 23-24 2018, the Mainstreaming Climate Resilience in Development Planning Technical Assistance -Package C organized a Training of Trainers on the utilization of tools to analyze climate risks within the process of commune and budget planning. This is the second training with 12 provincial representatives from line ministries. The purpose of the training is to increase awareness of sub-national administrations on the use of the climate analysis and budgeting tools to develop climate change adaptation projects. The sessions also contributed to enhancing understanding on sub-national monitoring and evaluation systems using gender and other criteria for selecting pilot projects to implement in the target provinces.



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