

Partners: UNICEF Cambodia, Location(s): Kampong Thom provinces

Background

Cambodia is one of the countries most affected by natural disasters. More than 90% of the rural poor live in rural areas, depending on the agricultural sector primarily for livelihoods and income. The Ministry of Rural Development has developed a 10-year Strategic Plan (2013-2022) and a Five-Year Action Plan (2019-2023) to Address Climate Change in the Rural Development Sector. The Climate Change Working Group, with technical support from the Ministry of Environment, has developed a “Building Climate Resilience for Rural Water Supply Infrastructures in Cambodia (BCR-WS)”

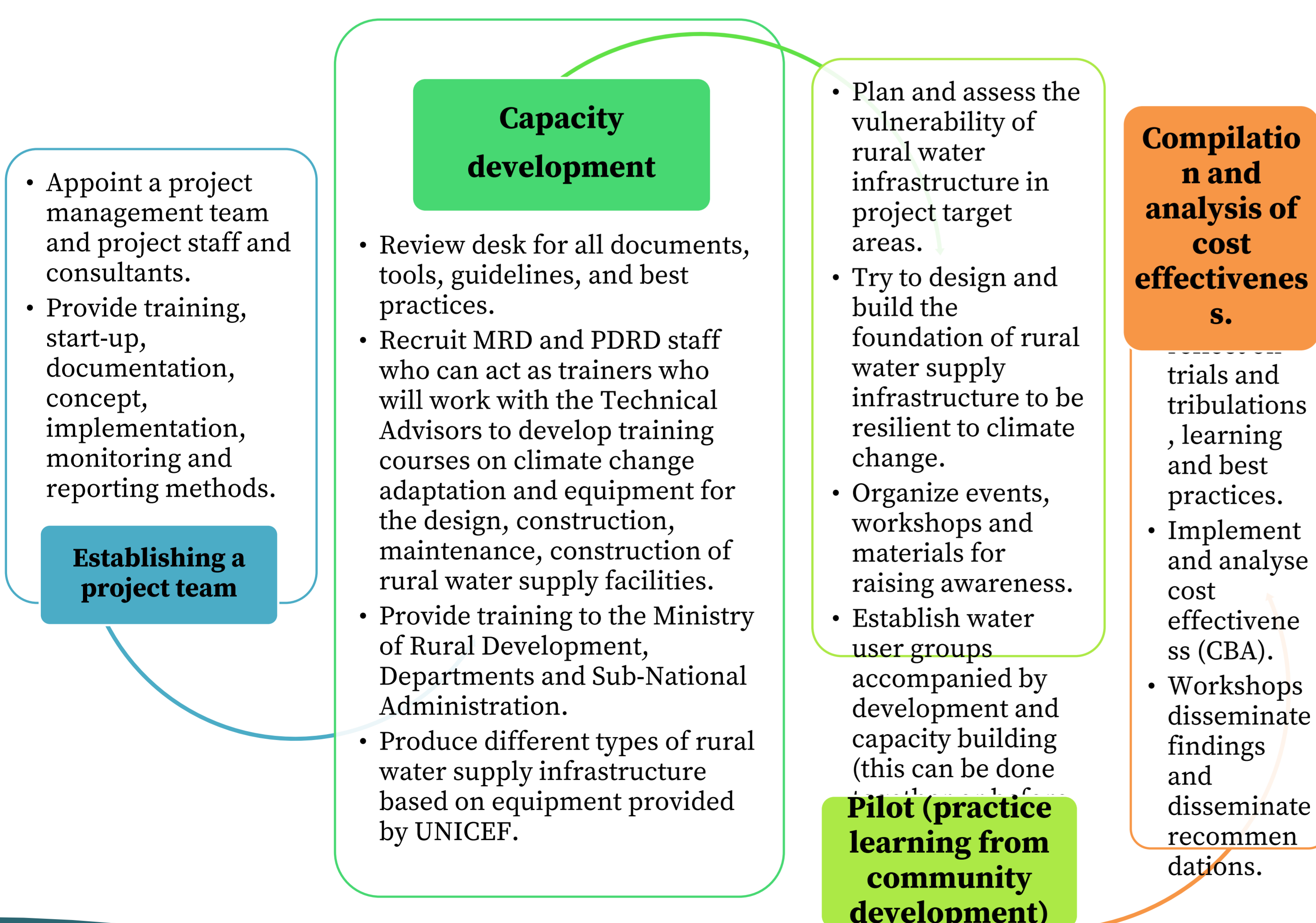
Objectives

- Rural communities in project target areas will have increased access to safe water and sanitation for all year round.

Implementation progress

- Completed recruitment: Finance and Program Officers are recruited.
- Program and financial orientation for staff and team: Relevant officials attended the project guidance workshop organized by CCCA, the project director held a meeting to introduce financial principles and standards to all programs and program support for the project.
- Preparation of project results framework and monitoring system, evaluation and update is completed.
- Project launch workshop was completed: the project launch workshop was held on February 9, 2021, in Kampong Thom Province, with the participation of 37 participants (8 women) including district hall officials, commune chiefs, commune councillors, village chiefs, NGO officials and representatives of relevant ministries such as provincial governors, provincial environment departments, provincial water resources and meteorology departments, and provincial women's affairs departments.
- Completed the preparation of Operation and Maintenance Guidelines (O&M) for water user group (WUG)
- Completed three climate resilience pump wells in three villages. Three WUG were formed and oriented.
- Completed the baseline assessment of the project. The data from the based baseline was used to prepared the training materials and water usages and rural health guideline for community.
- Completed the production of education booklet on water use and health for rural communities.
- In the meantime, the project team are in the progress to prepare the training materials and training guides on climate resilience building for rural water supply infrastructure.

Key technologies and approaches introduced



Outputs and key activities

- **Overall outcome:** The Capacity on building resilience to climate change for rural water supply infrastructures in Cambodia will have developed. Tables, activity pictures or graphs are recommended.
- **Output1:** Strengthened institutional capacity on adaption and mitigation options for the rural water supply infrastructures.
 - Activities: develop training courses and materials on climate change, Risk Assessments tool and technical guideline for climate resilient rural water infrastructures, train PDRD and sub-national official, conduct monitoring, documenting, pilot and designed new water infrastructures.
- **Output2:** Increased climate resilient rural water supply infrastructures in project target areas in Kampong Thom province.
 - Activities: review the risks assessment, design climate resilient rural water infrastructures, construct climate resilient water infrastructures, conduct technical supervision for the construction and rehabilitation works., form Water User Groups (WUG).
- **Output 3:** Increased awareness of vulnerable communities in the project target areas on climate change impacts, and the necessary adaptation and mitigation measures needed for Rural Water Supply and Sanitation.
 - Activities: design the awareness raising campaign on climate change impacts, adaptation and mitigation measure necessary for rural water supply and sanitation, develop awareness raising materials on climate change impacts, the adaptation and mitigation measures needed for rural water supply and sanitation and conduct the awareness raising campaign/workshops.



Key challenges and lessons learnt

Challenges	Solution
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Covid-19 outbreak has been a major obstacle to the project for the past year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Implement prevention measures in accordance with the guidelines of the Ministry of Health, conduct small-scale gatherings, and wash hands regularly with soap, alcohol or gel.

Lessons learnt

- ❖ A key lesson learnt from this year project implementation is that the adaption of communication technology like virtual meet and effective distance communication have to apply in the project implementation in order to move the project forward. Flexibility and working from home initiative was an important adaption to keep all possible activities implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ❖ Participation from local authorities was the key project deliverables.