

# Building Climate Resilience for Rural Water Supply Infrastructures in Cambodia (BCR-WS) Project, partners: UNICEF Cambodia, location(s): Kampong Thom provinces

## Background and objectives

### Cambodia: A Country at the Frontlines of Climate Change

Cambodia, a Southeast Asian nation, is among the countries most severely impacted by natural disasters. This vulnerability is exacerbated by the fact that a significant portion of its population is dependent on the agricultural sector for their livelihoods and income.

### Rural Cambodia: The Heart of the Nation

Over 90% of Cambodia's rural poor reside in rural areas, where agriculture is the primary source of income. These communities are particularly susceptible to the adverse effects of climate change, which can disrupt agricultural activities and threaten their livelihoods.

### Government Initiatives: A Step Towards Resilience

Recognizing the urgency of the situation, the Ministry of Rural Development has taken proactive steps to address these challenges. They have formulated a Five-Year Action Plan (2019-2023) specifically aimed at mitigating the impacts of climate change in the rural development sector.

### Building Climate Resilience: A Collaborative Effort

In a collaborative effort, the Climate Change Working Group, with technical assistance from the Ministry of Environment, has developed a project titled "Building Climate Resilience for Rural Water Supply Infrastructures in Cambodia (BCR-WS)". This initiative is a testament to Cambodia's commitment to building resilience against climate change and ensuring the sustainability of its rural water supply infrastructures.

### "Building Climate Resilience for Rural Water Supply Infrastructures in Cambodia (BCR-WS)" Project Objective:

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

## Approaches and technology used

- Activated the key persons in the Climate Change Technical Working Group and appoint technical consultants.
- Provide training, start-up, documentation, concept,

### Establishing a project team

### Capacity development

- Documents, tools, guidelines, and good practices.
- Technical Advice to develop training courses on climate change adaptation and equipment for the design, construction, maintenance, construction of rural water supply facilities.
- Provide training to MRD, PDRD and Sub-National Administration.
- Produce different types of rural water supply infrastructure based on equipment provided by UNICEF.

- Assess the vulnerability of rural water infrastructure in project target areas.
- Design and build the foundation of rural water supply infrastructure to be resilient to climate change.
- Organize events, workshops and materials for raising awareness.
- Establish water user groups accompanied by development and capacity building.

### Pilot (practice learning from community development)

### Compilation and analysis of cost effectiveness

- Review and reflect on trials and tribulations, learning and best practices.
- Implement and analyse cost effectiveness (CBA).
- Workshops disseminate findings and disseminate recommendations.

## Results

The objective of this project was to build the capacity on resilience to climate change for rural water supply infrastructures in Cambodia. To achieve this objective, we performed the following activities under three outputs.

### Output 1: Strengthened institutional capacity on adaption and mitigation options for the rural water supply infrastructures.

We trained PDRD staff and local authorities on climate change and climate resilient rural water infrastructures. We helped them apply the knowledge and skills on 2 real sites in Kampong Thom province. We evaluated the performance and benefits of the climate proof water infrastructures compared to the traditional ones.

### Output 2: Increased climate resilient rural water supply infrastructures in project target areas in Kampong Thom province.

We built 6 climate resilient water infrastructures in Kampong Thom province with stakeholder consultation and technical supervision. We trained 6 WUGs with over 680 members (50% women) to manage and maintain the water infrastructures.

### 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.

We raised awareness on climate change and rural water supply and sanitation among vulnerable communities. We created and distributed various materials and conducted awareness raising reached out to over 38000 people (50% women) using interactive methods and tools.



## Scale up plan

### Scale-Up Plan:

We want to scale up our project that improved rural water supply infrastructures in Cambodia to cope with climate change. We will do this by:

#### Partnership Expansion:

- Working with other groups to get more support and funding for the project.
- Involving local people and organizations in the project activities.

#### Knowledge Sharing and Training:

- Training staff and authorities from other provinces on how to make water supply infrastructures more resilient to climate change.
- Sharing what we learned and did through different events and platforms.

#### Infrastructure Development:

- Building more climate resilient water supply infrastructures in other provinces that face similar climate change risks.
- Consulting and supervising the infrastructure construction and operation.

#### Community Engagement:

- Forming and strengthening WUGs in the new project areas, especially women.
- Educating the community about climate change and how to adapt and mitigate it for water supply and sanitation.

We hope to achieve the same results as we did in Kampong Thom province and help more areas in Cambodia become more resilient to climate change.