



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

UNDP partners with people at all levels of society to help build nations that can withstand crisis, and drive and sustain the kind of growth that improves the quality of life for everyone. On the ground in more than 170 countries and territories, we offer global perspective and local insight to help empower lives and build resilient nations.

Stripped of landmines, land bears fruit

PAILIN - For more than a decade, Khit Sarin and her neighbors lived on a strip of land suspected to be contaminated with landmines in Pailin province. Without enough resources to settle in a safer area, they decided to risk it and stayed on. When a landmine exploded one day in Sarin's backyard and killed her cow, she contacted the local government and asked for help.

"They found more than 19 anti-personnel mines in my backyard and around my neighbors' house," Sarin recalled. Through the Clearing for Results II project, around 6 sq km of land in Ou Chra Khoet village was cleared and released in 2013. At least seven families in the village are now living safe and productive lives.

Sarin then began planting 20 fruit trees each of longgan, dragon fruit and banana in 24m x 107m of land in her backyard, in addition to jackfruit and coconut trees. She intends to sell most of the harvest to the market and use the remaining for household consumption or to share with her neighbors. The 56-year old mother of four hopes that the profit from the fruit trees will add to her US\$700 profit from cassava planted nearby.

Right next door, Nou Cheata and his wife Von Sokun, saw how a tractor accidentally detonated a landmine barely 100 meters from their house. "I was afraid but I wanted to know what happened," he says. "I used to walk on that area to collect scrap metal from old cars."

continued on page 2

Women at the core of protecting forests, reducing carbon emissions



Photo: UNDP Cambodia

Ms. Saing Mao, 61, front, and a neighbor collect non-timber products to use as traditional medicine from a community protected forest in Trapaing Chan commune, Kampong Chhnang province.

KAMPONG CHHNANG - "If we have forests, we have life," 61 year old Saing Mao harps Cambodia's national creed as a testament to women's increasing awareness and involvement in protecting its forests. Saing Mao, Vice Chair of her commune's Community Forest Management Committee (CFMC), is one of hundreds of women trained through UNDP's Sustainable Forest Management project. This initiative, funded through the Global Environment Facility, supports the Cambodian Government in implementing its priority actions in the National Forest Management Programme.

Around 85 percent of Cambodians depend on agricultural and forest production for their primary livelihood. Forest resources contribute from 30-42 percent of the total household incomes of rural people. At this rate, it is estimated that around 2.6 million hectares of degraded forest in Cambodia needs to be restored.

"Previously, I didn't know why protecting the forest is important," says Saing Mao. "Forests provide for our livelihood and it protects us from floods. I now know what our roles and responsibilities are. This is for the next generation," she shares.

In Trapaing Chan commune, Kampong Chhnang province where Saing Mao lives,

14 CFMCs work in patrolling the community-protected areas, in tree planting and in keeping the forests free from garbage. UNDP and its partners provided training in the eight steps to community forest management including among others, participatory mapping, forest inventory, and in creating community forestry management plans. Last year, 91 field training courses were provided to a total of 1,854 individuals, 537 of which were women, to CFMC members, commune councilors and village chiefs.

"The forest belongs to us," says Chea Song, Vice Chair of CFMC in 185K commune. "We mobilize the community so we can protect the forest together."

More importantly, CFMCs have been developing their respective community forest management (CFM) plans through technical assistance from the project. To date, all 30 community forestry targets have nearly completed the Community Forestry Management Planning (CFMP) process.

Apart from this, UNDP has been promoting and providing skills training for women in producing energy-efficient stoves that reduce the use of wood by as much as 30 percent. The Neang Kongrey and the *lau thmey*

continued on page 2

Contents

Water: where small initiatives help communities thrive	2
Cambodia's human development index value continues to rise	3
Social protection key to reducing vulnerability of Cambodia's poor	3
Cambodia steps up mainstreaming climate change into local planning	4
UNV organizes 4 th National Forum on volunteerism	4

Water: where small initiatives help communities thrive

KAMPONG SPEU - Sao Bin, a 38-year-old farmer province, used to walk three kilometers every day to collect water for drinking, cooking and washing. These days, he has access to clean water since his house was connected to a pipe system in 2013.

In Chambok commune, Kampong Speu province, some 630 homes now have access to round-the-clock running water. More than 3,000 villagers who, until recently, could only afford to bathe every other day now have water.

"Sometimes, there wasn't enough water for cooking," recalled Sao Bin. "We even hesitated to wash our clothes and hands frequently. Germs were passed on and we became sick easily," he added as he reflected on such hardships. His house has also been fitted with a toilet, a necessity that he could not afford before.

With water being available, Sao Bin has also filled his backyard with rows of vegetables and a fish pond which is now a source of food for his household.

These are some of the seemingly simple but remarkable changes that the farmers in Chambok commune are enjoying through a

UNDP-supported project that helps improve livelihoods. The Cambodian Community-Based Adaptation Programme, funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), began installing pipe water systems in 2007 that distribute water from a nearby waterfall to 300 families in three villages. UNDP worked with local communities to install a 25-kilometer piping system which provides year-round water supply, improving sanitation facilities such as water-supplied latrines that were an unheard-of luxury only a few years ago. With additional funding from Sweden, an expansion pipe network was completed to reach three additional villages.

The pipe network also significantly eased the burden of collecting water daily from women like Ou Sokhim, a mother of two. "Lack of water made life very difficult," she said. "Our crops always died and our children were often sick with diarrhea. But since we've had clean water, our children rarely get sick because we can wash them properly. Their hygiene has improved. Because of this, they can attend school regularly," Ou Sokhim said.

Having available water also allowed villages to grow organic fruit and vegetables in their own garden and sell these to nearby Chambok eco-tourism center. As the wider

community began to prosper, the eco-tourism center became successful in its own right. Increasing tourist arrivals meant greater demand for quality fresh fruits and vegetables. Local farmers with surplus produce have since then reaped the profits.

Touch Morn, manager of the Chambok eco-tourism center, recalled how his staff had to buy vegetables from a distant market to serve to tourists at the center. This time, they can source fresh produce directly from the villagers.

"It became much easier to operate the center's restaurant because we can get exactly what we need from within the local vicinity," Touch Morn said.

There have been environmental benefits too. Many of the villagers used to rely on hunting wildlife and cutting trees for a living, to the detriment of the ecosystem. Touch Morn used to be one of them but today he is a devoted environmentalist working with his fellow villagers to preserve the forest in the surrounding hills.

When the piping system was being developed, the locals expected to have enough water only for drinking and washing. "But now they can even use water for growing vegetables in their own gardens to earn extra money," Touch Morn said, calling the project "a historical achievement" to improve the lives of the villagers.

Stripped of landmines...

continued from page 1



PHOTO: UNDP Cambodia

Khit Sarin now plants fruit trees on her backyard where 19 anti-personnel mines were found and destroyed through UNDP's Clearing for Results II project.

Like Sarin, Cheata couldn't use much of his backyard for fear of stepping on a landmine. After the area was finally cleared, he ventured into planting fruit trees on a 10m x 100m plot. The profit, Cheata hopes, would add to his meager annual income of US\$1,000.

UNDP, through the CFR II project, has been partnering with the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA) in regulating, monitoring and managing the mine action sector. The US\$25 million project, supported by the governments of Australia, Switzerland and Canada, among others, intends to promote the release of land for agricultural use amongst the most marginalized communities.

The CFR II project, now on its second phase, has helped release 3,806,833 m² of land in Pailin in 2013-2014. In total, CFR II has released more than 51 sq km of land in the most heavily mined provinces including Pailin, Battambang and Banteay Meanchey since clearance commenced in 2011. Further, the project has contributed to the decline in mine casualties in the three target provinces, from 68 in 2011 to 11 casualties in 2013.

"I am surprised at how lucky I am without [experiencing] any accidents or amputation of an arm or a leg," Sarin reflects. "Now I feel safe digging the soil and planting without worries," she concludes.

Women at the core...

continued from page 1

stoves, which sell for US\$0.8-1 each, can rake in a profit of about KHR700-1,000 (0.17 -0.25 cents) per unit. In 2013, around 35,541 units were sold by various producers. The combined net profit made from the production and distribution of stoves totaled US\$14,407.

Sokun Tida, 25 years old and a mother of two, attended the production training and began making the stoves in April of this year. "I can sell an average of 200 stoves per month," she says. "If I don't employ an assistant, I can earn US\$1 for every unit I sell," she said.

Producing the improved stoves generated 118 new jobs in 2013 that includes producers, craftsmen and retailers, 94 of whom were women. Producers and distributors use the profit to augment their basic needs such as food, and to pay off loans for the materials and construction of production sites. In the same year, an estimated 2,680 units of carbon dioxide emissions were reduced through the use of the energy efficient stoves.

Cambodia's human development index value continues to rise

In July, UNDP launched the 2014 Human Development Report (HDR) globally from Tokyo, focusing on reducing vulnerabilities and building resilience. Cambodia's Human Development Index (HDI) value for 2013 is 0.584 – which is in the medium human development category – ranking it at 136 out of 187 countries and territories.

Between 1980 and 2013, Cambodia's HDI value increased from 0.251 to 0.584, an increase of 132.7 percent or an average annual increase of about 2.59 percent. This means that Cambodia has continued to experience an upward, positive change in the three dimensions measured, namely life expectancy, education and GNI per capita since 1980 to 2013. The latest rank is shared with Bhutan.

The HDR introduced new indexes in 2010 that provide a more accurate analysis of development achievements in each country. The Inequality-Adjusted HDI (IHDI) takes into account the inequality or the 'loss' of human development due to inequality in the three dimensions measured. Cambodia's HDI value is 0.584 but falls to 0.440 if discounted for inequality.

Additionally, the Gender Inequality Index (GII) reflects gender-based inequalities in three dimensions – reproductive health, empowerment, and economic activity. Reproductive health is measured by maternal mortality and adolescent birth rates; empowerment is measured by the share of parliamentary seats held by women and attainment in secondary and higher

education by each gender; and economic activity is measured by the labor market participation rate for women and men. The GII can be interpreted as the loss in human development due to inequality between female and male achievements in the three GII dimensions.

Cambodia has a GII value of 0.505, ranking it 105 out of 149 countries in the 2013 index. In Cambodia, 18.1 percent of parliamentary seats are held by women, and 9.9 percent of adult women have reached at least a secondary level of education compared to 22.2 percent of their male counterparts. For every 100,000 live births, 250.0 women die from pregnancy related causes; and the adolescent birth rate is 44.3 births per 1000 live births. Female participation in the labor market is 78.9 percent compared to 86.5 for men.

In 2014, the HDR introduced the Gender Development Index (GDI) based on the sex-disaggregated Human Development Index, defined as a ratio of the female to the male HDI. The GDI measures gender inequalities in achievement in three basic dimensions of human development—health (measured by female and male life expectancy at birth), education (measured by female and male expected years of schooling for children and mean years for adults aged 25 years and older); and command over economic resources (measured by female and male estimated GNI per capita). The 2013 female HDI value for Cambodia is 0.533 in contrast with 0.587 for males, resulting in a GDI value of 0.909.

Cambodia's Human Development Indicators as measured in 2013 are as follows:

Indicator	Value
Health Life expectancy at birth	71.92
Education Mean years of schooling	5.77
Income/command over resources	2,805.43
Gross National Income (GNI) per capita (2011 PPP \$)	
Inequality Gender Inequality Index	0.505
Poverty Population in multidimensional poverty (%)	46.79
Employment and vulnerability	85.8
Employment to population ratio	
Human security	2.225
Homeless population (% of population)	
Trade and financial flows International trade (% of GDP)	113.58
Mobility and communication	-2.3
Net migration rate (per 1000 population)	
Environment	0.29
Carbon dioxide emissions per capita (tons)	
Demography Population total (millions)	15.14

Further details on the 2014 Human Development Report can be found at <http://hdr.undp.org/en>.

Social protection key to reducing vulnerability of Cambodia's poor

Poverty has been substantially reduced in Cambodia but the country must continue working to strengthen social protection scheme to prevent the trend from being reversed, government officials and development partners said during a recent event to disseminate the Human Development Report 2014.

"The scope of social protection must also be enhanced to help reduce risks facing the poor as well as to improve their resilience in facing up to those risks," said H.E. Ngy Chanphal, Secretary of State of Ministry of Interior and Vice Chairman of Cambodia's Council for Agricultural and Rural Development. "We cannot be just satisfied with what we have achieved to date," he said.

He spoke at a workshop to disseminate the report, entitled "*Sustaining Human Progress: Reducing Vulnerabilities and Building Resilience*," on 2 September. The event was hosted by Cambodia's National Committee for Disaster Management with support from UNDP Cambodia. The report's theme is particularly relevant to Cambodia, which, despite progress made in its socio-economic development in the past few decades, is still deemed highly vulnerable to a number of risks.

Although the poverty level has now dropped to 19.8 percent, many Cambodians are still hovering just above the poverty line of 3,871 riel (0.96 US cents) a day, making them prone to slipping back into poverty in the event of shocks, such as economic crisis or natural disasters.

"Cambodia has made tremendous gains, and if the gains are to be protected, vulnerability has to be addressed," UNDP Deputy Country Director Napoleon Navarro said.

H. E. Ngy Chanphal agreed, saying "the journey we have taken towards our development was long and arduous, but ahead of us there are still many more challenges that we have to continue addressing."

Cambodia steps up mainstreaming climate change into local planning

Cambodia has begun making an important step towards integrating climate change into its sub-national planning and budgeting process – a key development wherein climate change had not been previously incorporated in government’s sub-national planning policy. This move comes at a decisive time when half of Cambodia’s communes are categorized between being vulnerable to extremely vulnerable to climate viability, according to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Through UNDP’s scaling up project, the government’s National Committee for management of sub-national Democratic Development (NCDD) has agreed to develop the climate change mainstreaming guideline to be implemented at the district and commune levels across the country in the future. Developing the guidelines followed the piloting activities in several provinces. Apart from the mainstreaming guidelines, the key outputs of the project include know-how skills and mechanisms that will provide modeling for local governments to develop and implement climate resilient strategy and projects. A financing mechanism will also need to be established for cohesive climate

change response.

Mainstreaming climate change into sub-national planning and budgeting processes entails documenting best practices and lessons learnt from implementing community climate-resilient initiatives and expanding them from one locality to another.

One of the lessons learnt was to include climate-resilient techniques in road repair. In Battambang province, more than 2 km of road cutting through several communes in Ek Phnom district gets flooded every year, hampering traffic and goods to and from other towns. Come dry season, the road is repaired, only to be damaged again when a nearby river swells during the rainy season and inundates the road.

In 2013, UNDP piloted climate-resilient techniques in the repair work. “Many people in the communes linked to this road are benefitting greatly from the improvement of its condition,” said Mr. Seng Yi, commune chief in Ek Phnom district where the project was piloted.

The scaling up involves a three-step process, including: 1) conducting a Vulnerability Risk Assessment (VRA); 2) planning and identifying problems; and 3) prioritizing

and investing in plans. The project is being implemented in five districts in three provinces, namely Takeo, Battambang and Preah Vihear. Prioritization and investment allocation of climate-resilient projects have been completed in all five targeted districts in the three pilot provinces.

UNDP is currently assisting the NCDD Secretariat to develop the climate change mainstreaming guideline and the technical manual in consultation with government ministries and development partners.

“This is a key step to promote local ownership, especially the role of districts and communes to coordinate local cooperation in responding to climate consequences,” said Napoleon Navarro, UNDP Cambodia’s Deputy Country Director. “Better planning and access to development investment are the best options to help rural communities avoid the dire effects of climate change and natural disasters,” he added.

A core group has been officially established under NCDD Secretariat leadership. The group comprises of the ministries of environment, planning, interior, finance, and agriculture and the National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM), as well as development partners including the Swedish International Development Agency, the European Union, UNDP, the UN Capital Development Fund, the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank.

UNV organizes 4th National Forum on volunteerism

UNV Cambodia, along with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports and the Cambodia Volunteering Network, successfully held the 4th National Forum on Volunteerism entitled “Be A Role Model, Be A Volunteer” to raise awareness on the impact that volunteers have made and to recognize their contribution towards Cambodia’s development.

Held on 10 September at the National Institute of Education in Phnom Penh, more than 600 Cambodian youth from universities, civil society, volunteering organizations and the private sector participated in the event.

“Through contributions of time and skills, particularly in the social sector, volunteerism has played a meaningful role in achieving the Cambodian Millennium Development Goals,” said Claire Van Der Vaeren, Resident Coordinator of the United Nations in Cambodia, in her opening remarks. “Volunteering is one way to build the skills

and social responsibility of young people. In turn, when you – we – volunteer, it enables us all to engage in improving the future of our communities, and it enriches us in the process,” she shares.

At the forum, UNV officially launched the Volunteerism Caravan which serves as a venue for disseminating information about volunteer opportunities, builds a support network with other volunteering organizations and creates a space for discussion with local communities. Initially piloted in Battambang in June, the caravan will be taken to other provinces in the coming months.

Hov Sothea, a 22-year old Business Administration student from Pannasastra University, who came to the forum reflected, “The youth are more interested and focused on volunteering now. Cambodia is developing and we want to help improve our country more.”

“Volunteerism is important because it is beneficial to the people we help,” says Sok Arunwattey, a 21-year old student. “We work for the good of the society,” she said.

The National Forum is held annually in line with the global theme “Young. Global. Active.” In 2011, the Council of Ministers in Cambodia endorsed the National Policy on Cambodian Youth Development, which includes youth volunteerism as one of its four priorities.



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.



N° 53, Pasteur Street, Boeung Keng Kang I,
P.O. Box 877, Phnom Penh, Cambodia
Tel: +855 (0) 23 216167
Fax: +855 (0) 23 216 257
E-mail: registry.kh@undp.org
www.kh.undp.org
www.facebook.com/UNDPCambodia
www.twitter.com/UNDPCambodia