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The 4th Cambodian Water Conference & Exhibition

Water Security and Climate Resilient WASH in Cambodia

A case study in Kampong Chhnang

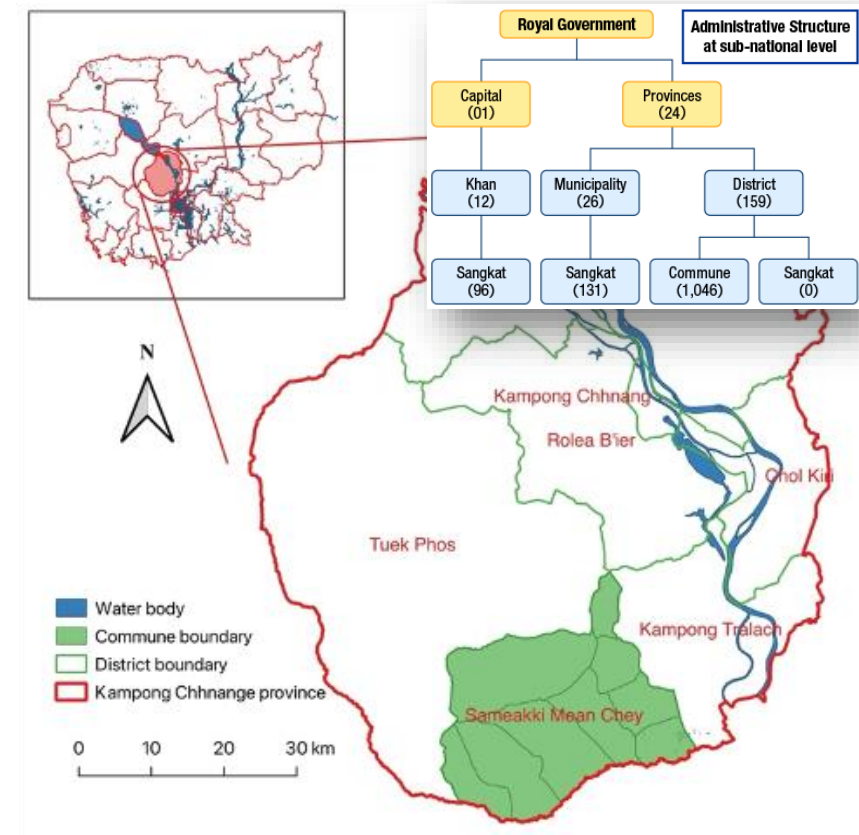
Mom CHAN (She/Her)

Water Resource Management Officer



Laying the foundations for Cambodia's first water secure district

- **Project goal:** Sustainable and resilient water resources across Cambodia
- **Donor:** Australian Water Partnership (AWP)
- **Implementing period:** Aug 2021 – Feb 2023 (18 months)
- **Target area:** Samaki Meanchey district, Kampong Chhnang province
- **Primary target groups:** people with disability, poor households, female-headed households, other marginalised groups, and women groups
- **Long-term outcomes:**
 - ✓ Improved drinking water quality at point-of-consumption in one district
 - ✓ Water resources in the district are being more sustainably used and managed
 - ✓ The district becomes a learning hub for other local actors to learn about WRM in practice





Project launching at national level



Consultation at sub-national level

ASSESSMENT AND CONTEXT UNDERSTANDING

Feasibility study



IDENTIFY SOLUTION

Gender Sensitive and Inclusive Water Resource Management Plan
Samaki Meanchey District, Kampong Chhnang

No	Activity	Plan	Timeline	Monitoring activity	Frequency	Monitoring tool	Responsibility
1	Prepare a water resource management plan (WRM) for the village group	Village	Whole district	2022	Verify the existing data	Data form	Local authorities (PPS/PRM, PDSST, PERB)
2	Prepare a water resource management plan (WRM) for the village group	Commune	Whole district	2022	Field monitoring of implementation	Form	Local authorities (PPS/PRM, PDSST, PERB)
3	Prepare a water resource management plan (WRM) for the village group	Village	Whole district	2022	Verify the existing data	Data form	Local authorities (PPS/PRM, PDSST, PERB)
4	Prepare a water resource management plan (WRM) for the village group	Commune	Whole district	2022	Water quality monitoring	Water test kit	Local authorities (PPS/PRM, PDSST, PERB)
5	Prepare a water resource management plan (WRM) for the village group	Commune	Whole district	2022	Project implementation monitoring	During training	Local authorities (PPS/PRM, PDSST, PERB)

Gender sensitive and inclusive WRM plan

DELIVER SOLUTION



- Implementation of the plans
- Capacity building
- Awareness raising and BCC

MONITOR, ADAPT, AND LEARN



- District learning hub
- Implementation monitoring
- Learning event
- Documentation

Evidence-based, System strengthening, Collective action/partnership, Awareness and capacity improvement, GEDSI



Assessment and context understanding



Project launching at national level



Feasibility study



Consultation at sub-national level



Overview of the Samaki Meanchey district

- Lacking data and information related to water resources and services, i.e. lacking information on water quality, groundwater, threats to water sources,...
- Lacking evidence-based action plan on water resource management and water services.
- Roles and responsibilities of local authorities on WRM and climate resilience WASH need further improvement
- Vulnerable areas to flood and drought seem not to be properly identified, and disaster preparedness and management plan are not in place.
- The awareness and behaviour of community toward safe water use and management seems low
- Communities and businesses seem not properly adopt sustainable farming and industrial practices.
- People are living scattered across the district, and it might be a challenge for PWOs to expand their services, especially for those who are living in remote areas.
- GEDSI still need further support in practice.
- The district seems to have limited human and financial resources.



Identify solution

The gender-sensitive and inclusive WRM plan is collaboratively developed. The key focus areas:

- Water resources
- Local lead disaster management
- Water use and supply services
- Coordination and accountability
- Capacity building
- Data and information
- Financing



តែងការសកម្មភាពគ្រប់គ្រងធនធានទឹកក្របសង្ខេបដោយប៊ិហាប៊ីឌ័រ

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Key interventions

Capacity improvement

The local authorities need capacity improvement related to water security and climate-resilient WASH.



Training on water quality testing and the SOP for flood and drought



Door-to-door awareness-raising training to local authorities



Provincial departments delivered the training on water safety plan and CC at district level



District administration delivered the water safety plan training and CC at commune level



Water supply mapping at Say Chuk commune



Key interventions

Behaviour change communication and awareness raising



BCC formative research



Review existing BCC materials



Community meeting on PWS



Awareness raising activity



Awareness raising activity



Key interventions

Other interventions

- Accountability and coordination
- Program reflection
- Meaningful participation of marginalized group
- Promote practical model



Program reflection with stakeholders



District working group (DWG) coordination meeting



People with disability representative in a panel discussion



Flood protection for pipe water treatment plant



The district shares the WRM plan with others



Key achievements

Improved drinking water quality at the point of consumption in one district

- Active engagement of the private sector, relevant authorities, representatives of marginalised groups and communities in the studies, training sessions, meetings, and workshops.
- Training on water quality monitoring and the SOP for flood and drought for Pipe Water Operators (PWO) and testing kits provided
- Increased awareness from PWOs and local authorities on water supply quality
- 2/6 PWOs that were not previously members of the CWA have now become members of the association.
- Water supply quality is now being monitored





“Samakki Meanchey is the only district in Kampong Chhnang that its local authorities have better understanding and coordination around water supply service because of WaterAid programs”

Mr Hong Sur, the Head of the Water Supply Office, PDISTI



Key achievements

Water resources in the district are being more sustainably used and managed

- The local authorities in Samakki Meanchey identified a need to improve capacity in water resources management and climate resilience WASH. Through the program intervention, the local authorities and relevant stakeholders have started gaining awareness and understanding of WRM.
- Acknowledge the importance of evidence collection, especially engagement of the community, women, and representatives of other marginalised groups
- The process has broadened the range of data and evidence to inform the development of the plan.
- All actors are now collectively implementing the district-wide gender-sensitive and inclusive WRM plan.



Mr Sophy Keo, head of the Planning Office of Samakki Meanchey district, presented the WRM plan and its development process in a reflection workshop

"In previous times, districts and communes didn't have specific inclusive water resource management, especially considering inclusive water infrastructure in the investment plan."



"The inclusive water resources management component was integrated into our district investment plan, and it is being approved in quarter 4 of 2022 and rolling out from 2023 onward."

Mr Channa Chhuon, the Deputy District Governor of Samakki Meanchey



Key achievements

The district becomes a learning hub for other local actors to learn about WRM in practice

- The Samakki Meanchey district focal points shared the gender-sensitive and inclusive WRM plan with other actors within and outside the target district
- The district has the capacity and committed to lead the rolling out of the water safety and the district-wide gender-sensitive and inclusive WRM plan.



WaterAid/Tith Nhim

The WRM plan is shared with other stakeholders



“We could not rely only on the contributions from the NGOs or philanthropists; we need to allocate some budget to take more action on water resource management”

Mr Channa in a discussion



Key recommendations

- ❑ Detail context assessment shall be conducted in detail at the beginning to:
 - Understand the context of the target location and gather relevant evidences and information related to water and climate
 - Identify the issues and challenges
 - Map out relevant stakeholders
- ❑ For the Cambodia context, the system-strengthening approach shall be used
 - Complex system
 - Limit resources
 - Lack of awareness and knowledge on water and climate
 - Existing behavioural issues related to water use and sanitation
- ❑ Shall align with government agenda, guidelines, or policies. For example:
 - Focus on people's access to clean water by 2030
 - District investment plan
 - Water safety guideline
- ❑ Enable environment for water-related services investment
 - Attract private sector investment
 - Limit resources





Thank you!

Mom Chan (She/Her)
Water resource management officer

