



MAINSTREAMING CLIMATE RESILIENCE INTO DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

CIVIL SOCIETY SUPPORT MECHANISM



Funded by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Pilot Program for Climate Resilience (PPCR).

Implemented by Plan International in close cooperation with the Cambodian Ministry of Environment and other ADB/SPCR partners.



ADB



About Climate Change

All over the world, the climate is changing. People are responsible for most of these changes, because when we burn fossil fuels like oil and coal, “greenhouse gases” are released into the atmosphere, which affects the world’s climate. Other human activities also contribute to climate change. For example, deforestation is another leading cause, as cutting trees reduces the ability of our planet to absorb carbon dioxide.

There are many effects of climate change. We are already experiencing an increase in average global temperatures, which in turn is leading to a rise in sea levels, greater frequency and severity of typhoons and other severe weather, and changes in rainfall patterns worldwide (floods and droughts). As a result, crops are less likely to succeed, disasters will affect more people more often, and families and communities will find it more difficult to rise out of poverty. The effects will be far-reaching, and threaten to reverse progress towards sustainable development. Climate change especially harms those who are already poor and vulnerable. Approximately 70% of recent disasters are climate-related and this proportion is likely to grow as climate change processes increase the unpredictability and intensity of climate events.

Climate Change in Cambodia

When it comes to coping with the effects of climate change, Cambodia is one of the most vulnerable countries in the entire world. Some of the reasons for this are:

- High levels of poverty and inequality.
- Floods, droughts, and other disasters are becoming more frequent and severe.
- Farming and fishing, which so many Cambodians depend on, are extremely sensitive to climate change and severely affect livelihoods and food security.

Cambodian men and women, boys and girls, families, communities and regions need to improve their capacity to address adverse

impacts of climate change. Non-governmental and community-based organizations have a critical role to play in assisting vulnerable communities in efforts to promote climate change adaptation (CCA) and disaster risk reduction (DRR).

Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

Climate change adaptation refers to how people and systems adjust to the impacts of climate change. CCA/DRR projects enhance people’s resilience, so that they are better able to cope with the hazards that accompany climate change. It is very different from climate change mitigation strategies, which seek to reduce climate change itself (for example, by reducing use of fossil fuels or conserving forests). CCA/DRR addresses the effects, not the causes, of climate change.

CCA/DRR can span many different kinds of activities. It is not specific to any one sector or group of people. Any project that promotes resilience to the effects of climate change can be considered an adaptation project. Common sectors include: agriculture and fisheries, water resource management, public health, education, transport, and urban development. Adaptation projects can also be found in other sectors.

Climate change affects different people in different ways. Those who are already vulnerable and marginalized have the fewest resources to cope effectively.

CCA interventions can be at any scale, from the global all the way down to the local level. Community-based adaptation (CBA) seeks to equip people with tools and knowledge to effectively manage the impacts of climate change. Too often, it is small communities – both rural and urban – who have the fewest resources with which to adapt. CBA is especially effective when it specifically addresses the needs and strengths of women and other vulnerable groups. It can also serve as a ‘learning laboratory’ to test innovations and identify good practice to scale up and out.



Farmers practicing fish raising



Civil Society Support Mechanism

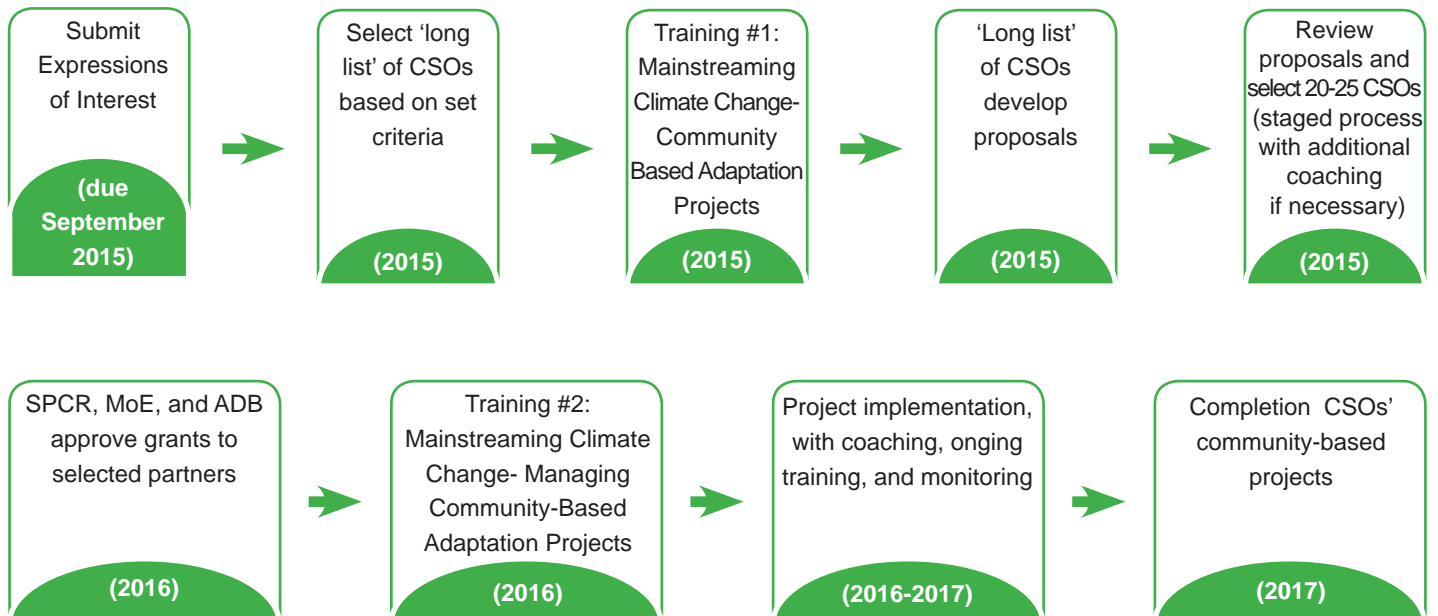
The ADB technical assistance entitled “Mainstreaming Climate Resilience into Development Planning” aims to award 20-25 small grants to Cambodia civil society organizations (CSOs) to strengthen their capacity to implement community-based CCA and DRR activities and integrate such efforts in to their day-to-day operations. About \$1,400,000 will be used to provide these grants. All of the partners which win a grant from this program also benefit from training and mentoring to improve their capacity in climate change adaptation.

This program complements broader efforts by the Royal Government of Cambodia and its development partners to promote resilience to climate change and meet the goals set in the Rectangular Strategy

Phase III (2013-2018), Climate Change Strategic Plan (2014-2023), and other policy aims. Civil Society Support Mechanism was designed to ensure that CSOs are ready and able to fully participate in national climate change adaptation strategies and processes.

Any Cambodian civil society organization (CSO) which is working on projects related to or affected by climate change can participate. Civil Society Support Mechanism awards grants to CSOs for community projects with a budget of up to \$100,000 and a timeline up to 18 months. Projects start up in early 2016. They can be in any sector, so long as they clearly address vulnerability and resilience to climate change risks. Civil Society Support Mechanism especially encourages initiatives that are gender-sensitive, participatory, innovative, and directly benefit vulnerable populations (including women, children, people with disabilities, and minorities).

Partner Selection Process



Farmers practicing organic gardening

Examples:

Agriculture, forestry and fisheries:

- Community-focused conservation and sustainable use of flood, heat, drought and salinity-tolerant indigenous crops, varieties and forest species
- Community-designed climate-smart agriculture, forestry, and aquaculture practices (e.g., nutrient, water and pest management, adjustments in cropping patterns, community-focused afforestation and reforestation, community-based risk sharing mechanisms) to enhance local food security and community resilience

Water resources:

- Community-based flood and drought management techniques (e.g., rainwater harvesting, irrigation water allocation systems, rehabilitation of small-scale irrigation schemes using renewable energy sources, mini-ponds, weirs, bio-engineering techniques along river banks to mitigate soil erosion, early warning systems)
- Community-based efforts to prevent saltwater intrusion in coastal areas, and adapt to coastal flooding (conservation of mangroves, rehabilitation of small dykes and embankments)

Urban development:

- Community-based water, sanitation, and hygiene strategies practices to improve health in urban areas;
- Community-based warning systems and safe housing measures to cope with floods

Transport:

- Community-based efforts to improve resilience of rural roads through bioengineering and other innovative approaches to stabilize slopes against landslides
- Community-based road and bridge protection measures (e.g., improved drainage systems)

Health:

- Community-based measures that address specific health risks associated with flood and drought
- Community-based systems to reduce incidence of vector-borne diseases like malaria, dengue

Energy:

- Community-based off-grid renewable energy systems (e.g., biogas systems, micro-hydro, solar irrigation, improved cook stoves) to improve adaptive capacity of communities and ecosystems in rural areas
- Community-based measures to protect energy infrastructure from impacts of flooding

Tourism:

- Community-based measures to protect tourism facilities from flooding
- Measures to improve climate resilience of tourism-dependent low-income communities in rural areas (e.g., strengthening ecotourism)

Media and communications:

- Effective methods to communicate impacts of climate change, CCA/DRR measures to communities (e.g., street dramas, other information, education and communication methods)

CCA/DRR Planning and Policy:

- Innovative community-focused planning systems to cope with climate-related disasters (e.g., food reserve systems, emergency and maintenance funds, approaches to include women in adaptation decision making, broadening the scope of school curricula to include community-based adaptation and DRR measures)

Climate smart agriculture