

Partnerships for Disaster Reduction-South East Asia  
Phase 4



MONITORING and REPORTING PROGRESS on  
**COMMUNITY-BASED  
DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT in  
CAMBODIA**

April 2008



Asian Disaster Preparedness Center



Monitoring and Reporting Progress on  
Community-based Disaster Risk Management in  
Cambodia: ECHO, UNESCAP and ADPC

April 2008

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## LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACF/AAG	Action Contra La Faim/ Action Against Hunger
ADB	Asian Development Bank
ADPC	Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre
AUSAID	Australian Agency for International Development
CBDRM	Community-Based Disaster Risk Management
CCDM	Commune Committee for Disaster Management
CRC	Cambodian Red Cross
CWS	Church World Service
DCDM	District Committee for Disaster Management
DiPECHO	Disaster Preparedness ECHO
DMP	Disaster Management Plan
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
HANET	Humanitarian Accountability Network
HFA	Hyogo Framework for Action
IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross
MAFF	Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry
MOH	Ministry of Health
MOP	Ministry of Planning
MOWRAM	Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology
MRC	Mekong River Commission
MRD	Ministry of Rural Development
NGO	Non Government Organization
PCDM	Provincial Committee for Disaster Management
SNAP	Strategic National Action Plan
UNDMT	United Nations Disaster Management Team
UN ISDR	United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The regular occurrence of floods and droughts in Cambodia, often within the same year, makes the country among the most disaster prone in South East Asia. This situation has important implications for Cambodia's economy and food security. First, an estimated eighty percent (80%) of the country's 14 million people depends heavily on fisheries and agriculture – two of the most seriously hit economic sectors during disasters – as their primary means of livelihood. A slight change in the predictability of floods and droughts can seriously disrupt livelihoods and food security. Second, high poverty incidence, as well as insecure livelihoods and food sources, have further increased the vulnerability of families, particularly those who rely on the Tonle Sap and Mekong rivers.

Previous emergency response efforts on regular droughts and flooding focused on giving temporary provisions of food, shelter, health services and sanitation to communities. Subsequent evaluation of these efforts led to the realization among government and non-government emergency service providers that an effective emergency response should establish disaster preparedness, mitigation and prevention mechanisms at all levels. Effective disaster management involves working with stakeholders, especially the most vulnerable groups, and strengthening local-level capacity for prevention, mitigation and emergency response.

These core concepts of integrated response mechanisms underpin Community-based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) strategies being implemented by the National Committee on Disaster Management (NCDM) and other leading NGOs. NCDM, a network of various government agencies engaged in managing emergencies and implementing prevention and mitigation strategies, leads government initiatives and is supported by local and international NGOs in implementing CBDRM strategies in 13 of the 24 provinces in Cambodia. Formal local government structures such as the Provincial Committee for Disaster Management (PCDMs) and Commune Council Committee for Disaster Management (CCDMs) are also involved in the efforts. Major funding support for CBDRM programs comes from the Asian Development Bank, Oxfam, the Asian Disaster Preparedness (ADPC) and ECHO. Priorities go largely into community-based capacity building and training for partners – local authorities, communities and local groups – on disaster management at the provincial, commune and village levels. Aside from capacity building activities, some NGOs have supported the construction of small-scale flood and drought mitigation structures.

The use of participatory planning methods in CBDRM activities has been crucial in fostering awareness, stakeholder-driven identification of needs and collective emergency planning. The support for local CBDRM initiatives is urgent, and a national advocacy for CBDRM is needed. A key policy area for advocacy is to decentralize selected authority and responsibilities from NCDM to provincial and commune structures, supported by coordination mechanisms and standards of practice to ensure quality of delivery and to meet CBDRM outcomes. Among implementers and service providers, documentation and sharing of best practices and lessons in CBDRM are timely actions that could ensure the success of various national and local efforts.

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## INTRODUCTION

The regular occurrence of floods and droughts in Cambodia, often within the same year, makes the country among the most disaster prone in South East Asia. This situation has important implications for the Cambodia's economy and food security. First, an estimated eighty percent (80%) of the country's 14 million people depends heavily on fisheries and agriculture – two of the most seriously hit economic sectors during disasters - as their primary means of livelihood. A slight change in the predictability of floods and droughts can seriously disrupt livelihoods and food security. Second, high poverty incidence, as well as insecure livelihoods and food sources, has further increased the vulnerability of families, particularly those who rely on the Tonle Sap and Mekong rivers.

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Communities and local governments are increasingly being recognized as important actors to identify their needs and suggest appropriate mechanisms for prevention and mitigation as drawn from their experiences and local knowledge. With the change of disaster management thinking towards community-based disaster risk reduction (CBDRR), a multi-sectoral and institutional approach has been taken by the Government of Cambodia through the initiatives of the National Committee on Disaster Management (NCDM) and the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) Partnerships for Disaster Risk Reduction in South East Asia (PDR-SEA) program. This review exercise has been undertaken to provide an overview of existing CBDRR initiatives and to assist in identifying gaps and emerging areas for development in community-based disaster risk reduction and management in Cambodia.

The report was drawn from relevant project documents and questionnaire that were submitted for various CBDRR and DRM activities such as the Strategic National Action Plan (SNAP) and the Community-based Disaster Risk Management Award.

The analysis and recommendations contained in this report were presented to relevant NGO and government representatives, who then drafted a manifesto and proposed policy recommendations. The report was presented by His Excellency Peou Samy to Cambodian Prime Minister His Excellency Hun Sen during the Fifth Disaster Management Practitioners' Workshop held in Phnom Penh in April 2008.

## OVERVIEW: DISASTER RISKS IN CAMBODIA

### FLOODS

Cambodia is one of the five countries located along the Mekong River, and its landscape consists of rolling plains and lowland. Annual rainy season commences in July, with flooding occurring between September to December. During the monsoon season, Cambodia experiences flash floods usually after heavy rainfall. The provinces of Battambang, Kampong Chhnang, Kampong Speu, Kampong Thom, Kampot, Kandal, Pursat and Rattanakiri are regularly hit by flash floods. The second type of flood, which is much slower and prolonged, is caused by the overflow of Tonle Sap river and Mekong tributaries, inundating the provinces of Kampong Cham, Kratie, Kandal, Prey Veng, Stung Treng, Svay Rieng and Takeo.

Table 1. Summary of Natural Disasters in Cambodia (1987-2007)

	No. of Events	Killed	Injured	Homeless	Population Affected	Damage USD (in 000's)
Flood	12	1,125	53	275,805	9,514,614	327,100
avg. per event		94	4	22,984	792,885	27,258
Drought	5	0	0	0	6,550,000	138,000
avg. per event		0	0	0	1,310,000	27,600
Epidemic	8	788	0	0	413,570	0
avg. per event		99	0	0	51,696	0
Wind Storm	1	0	0	0	0	10
avg. per event		0	0	0	0	10

Source: EM-DAT: The OFDA/CRED International Disaster Database, [www.em-dat.net](http://www.em-dat.net) - Université catholique de Louvain - Brussels - Belgium

In 2000, Cambodia saw the worst flooding in recent history, with a total estimated damage of USD150 million. It affected more than three million people in 22 of the 24 provinces of the country, displacing 85,000 families and killing 182.

### DROUGHT

Drought in Cambodia is characterized by loss of water sources caused by the early end of or delays in seasonal rainfall. The traditional drought/lean season is between the months

of August and November. While not as severe as floods in terms of impact, it severely affects farming productivity especially among rice growing communities who rely solely on rain or river-fed irrigation. Low agricultural yield due to extended drought has increased indebtedness of families and contributed to widespread food shortages. The worst drought incident in 2002 had affected two million people and incurred a total damage of USD 38 million.

The fishing and farming sectors suffer heavily as they depend on both the predictability of the weather and the volume of rainfall. Traditionally, the rise in water levels signals the beginning of farming season, as well as fishing with an opportunity for an increase in fishing grounds. However, changing environmental patterns means earlier or longer dry spells and unpredictable rainfall.

The influx of economic investments in Cambodia has yet to trickle down to the majority of the population. Poverty estimates show that at least 35 percent of the population is making less than one dollar a day. Exposure to disasters and economic and social displacement brought about by floods and droughts makes the poor more vulnerable and least likely to recover from resulting displacement.

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## COMMUNITY-BASED DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT (CBDRM) INITIATIVES IN CAMBODIA

This section describes the formal structures and network of partnerships for community-based disaster risk management in Cambodia. CBDRM is a strategy that builds upon existing capacities and coping mechanisms of communities to collectively design and implement appropriate and doable long-term risk reduction and disaster preparedness plans. The strategy involves the participation of local actors, particularly vulnerable communities, who actively work to identify causes of vulnerability and actions to mitigate the impact of vulnerability from these natural disasters. Additionally, the strategy empowers communities towards long-term capacity to adapt. With recurrent drought and flooding and threats from other natural disasters in Cambodia, CBDRM is seen as the way forward in minimizing enormous loss of life, property and livelihood. In Cambodia, the government considers CBDRM as an integral part of its rural development program to alleviate poverty.

### GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

The National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM)- was established in 1995 to serve as the coordinating body for all disaster management-related activities of the government. It is also recognized as the primary agency for managing emergencies and building the resilience of communities to natural disasters. The agency's other key mandates include implementing prevention and mitigation strategies to reduce the impact of disasters on life, livelihoods and infrastructure, and issuing and recommending guidelines and policies for legislative and budgetary support for emergency and disaster management. As a coordinating and policy recommending body, NCDM's goal is to build an effective system for disaster prevention, effective disaster response and rapid disaster recovery.

Its decision-making structure is composed of representatives from 17 ministries and four officials from other government offices. A Secretariat coordinates all activities and serves as the point-of-contact for disaster management efforts and information. The entire membership meets every July, right before the onset of the rainy season.

NCDM is currently finalizing the drafting of the Strategic National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction (SNAP) as part of the country's commitment to the Hyogo Framework of Action (HFA), an international agreement signed by 167 countries at the World Conference on Risk Reduction (WCRR) in Kobe, Japan

in January 2005. The eight-year strategic plan lays out national strategies for strengthening partnerships and building institutional capacity for DRM. At present, NCDM coordinates all disaster related programs, including CBDRM. As part of its strategy to institutionalize CBDRM, the NCDM works with various NGOs to establish disaster management committees at the provincial, district commune and village levels in target provinces, and build the capacity of local authorities and communities through training programs.

The Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) through Partnerships for Disaster Risk Reduction in South East Asia (PDR-SEA) program provides technical support to NCDM for the implementation of the CBDRM strategy.

In the organizational chart shown in Figure 1, each member ministry of the NCDM has disaster management components in its action plans. The Department of Hydrology and River Works

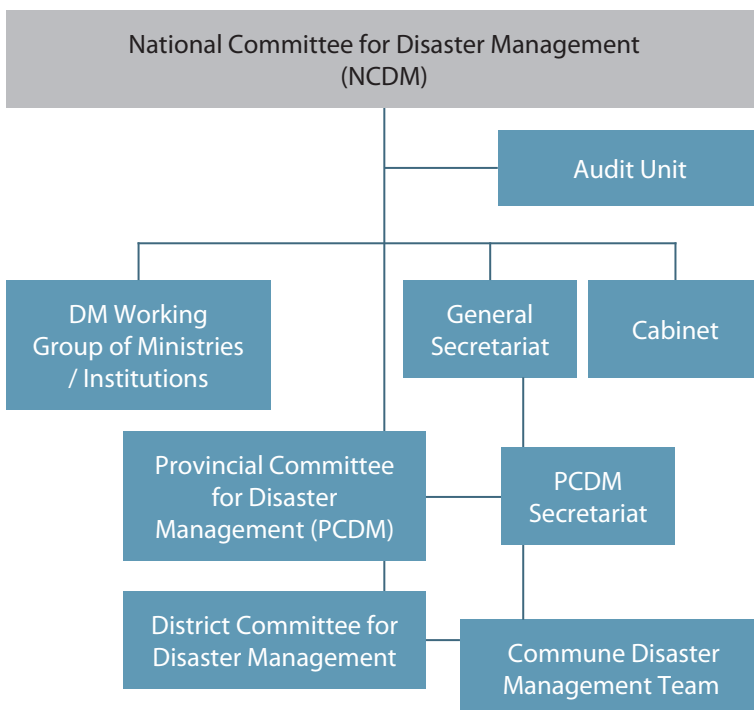
under the Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology (MOWRAM) leads the observation, collection and dissemination of hydro-meteorological information to all government ministries, stakeholders and communities. Information generated by the MOWRAM is used to monitor water levels, rainfall and river flows, which are necessary for disaster preparation and response in the communities.

The Ministry of Environment Youth and Sports (MOEYS) has included disaster preparedness in the curriculum by including regular discussions of flood, drought and health hazards (avian flu, dengue and malaria) in the classrooms. The Ministry of Women’s Affairs (MOWA) is also raising awareness in schools and lobbying local government officials to reduce the number of road and traffic accidents among school children.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) ties such measures to improve food security.

The MAFF, together with other agencies, has invested in irrigation and water catchment projects in some parts of the country. It has also increased its capacity building activities for crop diversification and awareness for emerging hazards such as avian influenza.

Figure 1. NCDM Organizational Structure



Source : National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM)

### Cambodian Red Cross (CRC)

The Disaster Management Department of the Cambodian Red Cross (CRC) was established in 1994. With lessons from the flooding of 1996, the CRC piloted its Community-based Disaster Preparedness Program (CBDP) in late 1998. It began with addressing flood hazards and was developed further to include drought impacts.

The goal of the CBDP program is “to reduce the impact of disasters on the most vulnerable people affected by disasters in Cambodia”. The program has three objectives: (1) to develop the capacity of the CRC to effectively prepare for disasters; and (2) to respond to natural disasters affecting Cambodia; and (3) to successfully implement natural disaster prevention and mitigation strategies at the community level, through its network of Red Cross Volunteers (RCVs).

The CRC’s CBDP has among the widest coverage in the country, spanning 9 provinces, 23 districts, 94 communes and 317 villages. The current phase of the CBDP focuses on Kratie, Prey Veng, Pursat and Svar Rieng provinces. Activities in the field include the development of Hazard Vulnerability Capacity Assessments (HVCAs), Village Disaster Reduction Plans (VDRPs) and implementation of disaster risk reduction (DRR) measures. Of these areas, 27 villages have developed their HVCAs. Plans to increase the number of villages to 40 are underway. A number of commune councils have committed to incorporate the VDRPs into their commune development plans (CDPs) and more commune councils in the target provinces will be encouraged to do the same.

As part of the IFRC’s global agenda, the CRC is currently finalizing its CBDRM strategy. Among its biggest investments are in capacity building and community-based disaster preparedness planning activities. One main component of the long term strategy is the Disaster Response Preparedness (DRP) project, currently in its inception phase, which aims to strengthen the capacity of the CRC to efficiently meet the basic needs of affected people and communities. As a capacity building project, it looks at strengthening its internal structure and coordination with external partners by clarifying roles and responsibilities. The DRP will also be integrated into the CBDP activities across the country.

The Cambodian Red Cross (CRC) acts as an auxiliary to the government and is the only non-government organization with formal membership in NCDM. The organization’s strength lies in its extensive field presence, with trained field based staff and local volunteers in all its branches in the 24 provinces.

## DRM NETWORKS

Three major networks are seriously implementing disaster risk management programs. While these networks do not always directly implement community-based disaster management activities, their members and local partners either have field presence or are working at the provincial level. There are existing overlaps in some programs and target areas, but each network has distinct specializations that support local level activities.

NCDM is a network of government ministries. As described in Figure 1, the NCDM is the recognized government focal point for DRM related activities. It has the following membership:

- Ministry of Interior
- Ministry of Defense
- Ministry of Environment
- Ministry of Economy and Finance
- Ministry of Public Works and Transport
- Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Information
- Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports
- Ministry of Cults and Religious Affairs
- Ministry of Rural Development
- Ministry of Industry, Mines and Energy
- Ministry of Women's Affairs and Veterans
- Ministry of Social Affairs, Vocational Training and Youth Rehabilitation
- Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications
- Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology
- Ministry of Tourism
- Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction
- Secretary of State for Civil Aviation
- High Command of Armed Forces

Each member ministry takes the lead in developing policies on disaster management activities relevant to their mandates. The representatives from this group are mandated to meet every July to plan and coordinate responses and clarify roles before the expected arrival of the rainy season. To harmonize efforts and roles, suggestions were put forward during a national consultation meeting to form a technical group from member ministries to provide technical expertise and bring focus to CBDRM initiatives within the ministries.

Additionally, the NCDM coordinates a working group for emergency response and rehabilitation work. Members include NGOs, the IFRC and CRC, the UN Disaster Management team and representatives from the health, agriculture and rural development sectors. This group of non-government organizations is further broken into subgroups on emergency response, food security, health, small scale infrastructure on water and sanitation, and preparedness and mitigation.

The second major network is the United Nations Disaster Management Team (UNDMT), which is the collective and coordinated UN disaster management structure that directly reports to the UN Country team. It is composed of country representatives from the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the United Nations Children's Funds (UNICEF), UNFPA, World Health Organization and World Food Programme (WFP) as the present coordinator of the team.

The third major network is the Humanitarian Accountability Network (HANet), which promotes accountability in the humanitarian sector. This group is currently chaired by CARE and includes World Vision, Oxfam GB, IFRC, CRC, CONCERN

and other local NGOs in its membership. The network also serves as a forum for facilitating and promoting accountability among practitioners, and advocating for standards and good practices.

## CBDRM ACTIVITIES OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

In a quick survey of non-governmental organizations working in the country, there are 10 international NGOs with significant presence and funding support for various social development initiatives. These NGOs have been implementing CBDRM activities in varying levels.

### *Action Aid*

Established in 1999 in Cambodia, ActionAid is an international organization working to fight poverty and promote human rights (women's rights, education, food security, human security during conflicts and emergencies, just and democratic governance and the right to life and dignity in the face of HIV/AIDS).

Action Aid has recently established CBDRM interventions in Cambodia. Its program called "Strengthening community resilience to flood and drought in Cambodia" seeks to build the capacity of community members and local authorities to understand and prepare for flood and drought. The project works with partner NGOs to reach 48 target villages in Kratie, Svay Rieng and Banteay Meanchey provinces in 15 months.

Project activities include capacity building and training of youth volunteers and school teachers, and awareness-raising activities in 16 primary schools. Technical trainings on disaster preparedness, mitigation and management, community development processes and project orientation seminars are also conducted with local authorities and local leaders.

ActionAid's program has an information and awareness-raising component that is integrated into the school curriculum, thereby reaching out to the larger village population. Local groups and local authorities are trained to conduct vulnerability and hazard assessments and develop village development plans. Overall, there are conscious efforts to strengthen the relationship and coordination with the local and national level structures on CBDRM.

### *CARE*

CARE is an international organization working with the most vulnerable individuals and households to identify resources, share experiences, and address poverty through sustainable solutions. The main activities of CARE in Cambodia are in education, health, rural development and emergency response.

CARE's DRM work is built into its Integrated Rural Development Program implemented in Prey Veng and Svay Rieng provinces. The DRM components of the IRDM program have taken off from lessons learned from the Disaster Preparedness Planning program, which was started in 2004. The initial project worked on capacity building of local authorities through action planning exercises.

The new component Integrated Rural Development Program, which began in June 2006, aims to put together functional drought and flood preparation

Table 2. Survey of International and National NGOs working on CBDRM in Cambodia

	Areas	Number of Communes	Beneficiaries	Funding	Status
Action Aid	Bantey, Mencheay, Krabe, Svay Rieng	9	18, 163 individuals	352,941 Euro	2007-2008
CARE	Prey Veng, Svay Rieng	15			3 years 2006-2009
CONCERN	Kg Cham, Kg Chimang, Pursat, Siem Reap			349,475 Euro	4 years 2008-2010
GRC	Kratie, prey Veng, Pursat, Svay Leng, Kg Chimang	7		432,237 Euro 23,600 USD	1 year Jan 2007 - Mar 2008
CWS	Svay Rieng	All communes		13,000 USD	6 months Jan - Jun 2008
LWF	Batambang, Kg Chimang, Kg Speu			655,338 Euro	3 years 2005-2008
OI	Kg Speu, Svay Rieng, Kratie	13	15,000 households	1.3M USD	1-3 year project ending 2008
PLAN	Kg Cham, Rattmakiri	6 district level		130,000 USD	1 year project
WV	Kg Chimang, Takeo	9		242,310 USD	3 years 2006-2009
ZOA	Oddar Meanchey	7		656,000 USD	2 years 2006-2008

Source: National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM)

and mitigation action plans and establish accessible information exchange networks in at least 75 percent of the target villages. At this phase of implementation, roles and responsibilities of the village implementation committees (VICs) are clarified, and coordination with local and national authorities strengthened.

Another project, the Community Led Innovations in Disaster Preparedness, builds community capacity for flood and drought preparedness and management. Major project activities are drought emergency needs assessments, indigenous early warning systems and small scale mitigation infrastructure operation.

#### CONCERN Worldwide

Its mission is to strengthen the ability of the poor and most vulnerable people to exercise their rights and make informed choices to achieve a better quality of life without compromising the environment. They also work to help the national government meet its obligation to respect, protect and fulfill the rights of the Cambodian people.

The Disaster Risk Reduction project is one component of Concern's Supportive Initiatives Livelihood Improvement (SILIC) program. DRR work is conducted through 18 local partner NGOs and includes awareness-raising and support for 23 small-scale mitigation infrastructure systems, which benefits 3,938 vulnerable families.

	Activities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Capacity building, awareness-raising, small mitigation infrastructures, participatory vulnerability assessments, orientation workshops, and training of CCDM and VDCs in CDO and CBDRM planning and DRR in school curriculum.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Action planning, mapping, EWS, infrastructure</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awareness raising, small scale infrastructure, capacity building of local structures, community assessments, emergency response</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>27 villages with HVCA, VDRPs, DRR, volunteers, capacity building, CDPs, CBDRR, department integration, coordination</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support PCDMs, action planning, work with NGOs and provincial departments to support provincial DRR action plan</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Capacity building, CBDP and HVCA, ECHO, first aid training, IEC materials distribution, small scale infrastructure, rice store</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Capacity building of partners, local and national structures (planning, training), small scale infrastructure, community assessments, livelihood assistance</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Linking with local government and NGOs, integration of DRR into programs</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Capacity building of local structures and community, planning, IEC, distribution, saving scheme, link with agri, self help groups</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Capacity building of communities and local structures, formation and training of VDNCs, integration of DRR into local plans, small scale infrastructure, livelihood support</li> </ul>

Concern has had a number of achievements in supporting community infrastructure projects, responding to emergencies, and replanting of rice paddies. Future plans include DRR training of partner NGOs, completion of risk vulnerability assessments with the communities, development of action plans and strengthening of coordination and capacity of the local authorities and local partners in implementing CBDRM.

#### *Church World Service (CWS)*

The Church World Service has been in Cambodia since 1979, delivering relief and implementing development programs. Its mandate has been to develop the capacity of the most vulnerable to meet their basic needs sustainably, and to participate in the emerging democracy. CWS works with local partners and community organizations on building technical and institutional capacities.

With the support of ADB, ADPC and MOWRAM, CWS recently implemented the project on Community-based Disaster Risk Reduction in nine villages in Svay Rieng province from July 2006 to September 2007. Project achievements include the development of a three-year Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction. Its current project, the Provincial Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction, undertakes action planning, training, establishment of CCDMs and VCDMs and support for PCDM of Svay Rieng in implementing the action plan.

Plans to expand to four more provinces are being explored, subject to the availability of funding.

#### *The European Commission Humanitarian Aid department (ECHO)*

The European Commission has been supporting humanitarian programs in South East Asia for the last ten years. Since then, support for Cambodia has doubled, taking up 25 percent of the budget for the region. With the exception of the Oxfam, most NGOs, particularly local NGOs implementing disaster management and humanitarian programs, receive funding from ECHO. There has been a shift in strategy within ECHO, moving from funding broad disaster-related activities to more local level and community-based interventions. There is also an increase in investment for capacity building of national and local structures and awareness-raising at all levels.

#### *Lutheran World Federation (LWF)*

Established in 1979 in Cambodia, the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) is a church-based international organization whose overall program goal is to empower rural communities to manage development processes, advocate for their rights and improve their options for sustainable livelihoods.

From 2003-2007, LWF implemented the Community-based Disaster Management projects in 300 villages across the provinces of Kampong Speu, Kampong Chhnang and Battambang, together with Dan Church Aid, Church World Service and partners from LWF's Integrated Rural Development through Empowerment projects. It also collaborated with NCDM and CRC in facilitating local planning process to ensure that CBDRR is integrated into the local development plans. Related participatory activities include organizing village disaster volunteers, building the capacity of PCDMs, DCDMs and CCs through trainings, and information dissemination and awareness-raising. LWF also supported small-scale community infrastructure for mitigation.

The current project focuses on capacity building by training of trainers on CBDRM, conducting more CBDRM trainings and organizing a CBDRM forum while continuing to strengthen coordination with other NGOs and the local authorities.

#### *Mekong River Commission (MRC)*

The MRC was established in 1995 as part of the agreement between Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam to design and plan long-term and cross-cutting strategies for sustainable use and management of all water and land resources in the Mekong River Basin. The MRC's Flood Management and Mitigation Center (FMMP) based in Phnom Penh leads in flood forecasting and dissemination of flood-related information to vulnerable communities. It works with national partners such as the Cambodia Red Cross and Action against Hunger.

Every year, the MRC and FMMP would organize the Annual Mekong Flood Forum to assist managers, civil society organizations and other DRM implementers to share their experiences in flood mitigation and management and to identify ways to improve flood management in the region.

#### *Oxfam International*

Oxfam International is a global group of independent organizations dedicated to overcoming poverty and fighting injustice. The lead agency for the humanitarian

program is Oxfam Great Britain. Other Oxfam agencies with presence in Cambodia are Oxfam America, Oxfam Hongkong, Oxfam Quebec, Oxfam Australia, Oxfam Novib and Oxfam Solidarite.

Oxfam is highly regarded for its directions to build human resource for disaster management in the country. Since 1999 up to present, Oxfam, jointly with Cambodian Red Cross and CWS, has provided 13 trainings on disaster preparedness and response to about 600 participants representing NCDM, INGOs, CNGOs and the UN.

The Oxfam International CBDRR program has three components: community-based flood preparedness, community-based drought preparedness and mitigation, and community-based disaster risk reduction. It works with partners in Kratie for the community-based flood preparedness, Kampong Speu for community-based drought preparedness and mitigation and Svay Rieng for community-based disaster risk reduction. Oxfam also responds to emergencies such as flash floods, with recent emergency efforts in Kratie in 2006 and Preah Vihear in late 2007.

A cross-cutting element that ties the three programs is a common goal to reduce risks from disasters, increase resilience of people and communities to drought and flood, and capacitate communities, partners, field staff and local authorities to implement CBDRR strategies. Oxfam and its partners work closely with the NCDM and its counterpart structures at the local level.

Since January 2005, the joint Oxfam program has invested more than USD 1.3 million in CBDRR and emergency efforts, which have directly benefitted 16,636 households and aided another 28,666 households.

From 2003 to 2006, Oxfam, in cooperation with CCK, implemented a pilot project on Flood Preparedness and Mitigation in 13 villages in Takeo. Local-level activities involved preparation of village needs assessments, formulation of village DRR plans, capacity building on key topics on disaster management, gender, leadership, accountability, community mobilization and climate change, among others. During the project period, Oxfam supported the construction of infrastructure such as flood gates, water catchments and latrines.

#### *Plan International*

Plan International first established its presence in Cambodia in 2002, with its office in Siem Reap. Plan works with children and their families, communities, organizations and local governments to implement their program interventions on health, education, water and sanitation, income generation and cross-cultural communication.

To launch its CBDRM efforts, Plan initiated a DRM capacity building program for its staffs and community partners. The organization plans to eventually integrate DRM in its programs. In preparation for its programmatic integration, Plan is building relations with organizations, network and government agencies working on DRR to assist them build organizational capacity for future programming.

#### *World Vision (WV)*

World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families and their communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice. For many years, WV has responded to emergencies in the country but it was only recently that it has developed a long term strategy for disaster management. World Vision established the Community Disaster Mitigation project (CDMP) under its Emergency Affairs (HEA) Program, where they work closely with CCDMs to improve their understanding of their roles in disaster management and build their capacity by providing trainings on disaster management and CBDRM, report and proposal writing, accountability, and local capacity for peace and environmental conservation. Through this project, information on natural disasters such as floods and droughts and emerging disasters threats like avian influenza are systematically shared with communities. To support community learning, WV organizes cross-visits between the CCDMs from the two provinces where they work. Parallel efforts included the formation and training of and support for self-help groups, which are crucial support mechanisms for CCDM.

WV plans to eventually integrate disaster management into the area development plans (ADPs), of which 20 are already developed for six provinces and Phnom Penh City.

#### *ZOA Refugee Care*

ZOA-Refugee Care supports refugees, internally displaced (IDPs), returnees and other groups who are affected by conflict or natural disasters in their transition from their current state of instability and lack of basic needs into a situation where enabling conditions for structural development have been (re)established.

From 2004 to 2006, ZOA implemented a program geared towards reducing the impact of droughts in Oddar Meanchey province. Program achievements include the selection and training of village disaster management councils (VDMCs), and formulation of participatory risk assessments and DRR plans. ZOA also collaborated with NCDM to provide training to the CCDM and the PCDM of Oddar Meanchey.

The organization has also undertaken drought mitigation activities like construction of irrigation ponds, wells and forms of water catchment, and distribution of farming implements and drought-resistant rice varieties and cash crops. The Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology (MOWRAM) assisted in the efforts by training staff on drought early warning systems.

The new program phase, which aims to build the capacity of communities to reduce the impact of disaster, particularly drought, has expanded its coverage from the pilot site in Oddar Meanchey province to seven communes. Another 33 VDMCs were formed and trained on CBDRM and hazard, vulnerability and capacity assessments. Those who were trained will lead the development of more village disaster management plans. Three more CCDMs were formed and further training activities were conducted for the new councils, as well as refresher training conducted by NCDM and MOWRAM for incumbent CCDMs and the PCDM.

Additionally, ZOA provided tractors and other farming implements, distributed rice seeds, and supported the construction of drought mitigation structures.

Future plans include expanding the level and number of capacity building activities at all levels, and increasing agricultural yields through crop diversity.



## TRENDS AND GAPS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CBDRM

### GEOGRAPHICAL SPREAD OF CBDRM PROGRAMS

Table 3 shows color coding of priorities for disaster risk management in each province vis-avis the presence of CBDRM initiatives by NGOs. For instance the province of Banteay Mencheay places high priority on flood and drought. Three NGOs either have completed programs or have ongoing CBDRM projects in the province.

It is worth noting that some provinces that have been identified as high priority areas in the flood and drought vulnerability maps made by the World Food Program in 2004 do not have a CBDRM program. Such is the case of Kandal province, a high priority area for flood and drought, but with no relevant CBDRM program. Kampong Speu and Ratanakiri have registered flash flood incidents, but they do not have any CBDRM activities as well. The province of Prey Veng ranks first and second priority for both flood and drought, respectively, but has only one NGO working on CBDRM.

There are 260 flood-prone and 270 drought-prone communes in the whole country. CBDRM projects are currently being implemented in only 12 out of the 23 provinces and in less than 100 communes. Svay Rieng (flood and drought) has the most number of CBDRM projects with four, followed by Kampong Chhnang (flash floods) with three. Other provinces like Siam Reap and Pursat have at least one program intervention in the areas.

Nine provinces - Banteay Mencheay, Kampong Cham, Kampong Speu, Kampong Thom, Kandal, Kratie, Prey Veng, Preah Vihear and Takeo - experience regular incidence of flood and drought throughout the year. Four of these provinces have one CBDRM program each while three provinces have two ongoing CBDRM programs.

## PROGRAMMING AND PARTICIPATORY PROCESSES IN CBDRR: ACHIEVEMENTS AND LIMITATIONS

CBDRM program beneficiaries are among the most vulnerable groups, and they are usually found in farming and fishing communities. Local capacities in all aspects of disaster managements are limited for many provinces. To improve capacity for risk management and emergency response, all CBDRM programs currently prioritize capacity building of committees for disaster management at the provincial, commune and village levels. All NGOs have invested heavily in training and capacity building activities on CBDRM for local authorities, implementing partners and communities.

The use of participatory processes such as participatory mapping and assessment exercises in CBDRM activities has enabled communities to identify their needs and consider marginalized groups such as children, the elderly, the poorest households and people with disabilities in the planning process, allowing for a more coordinated and effective delivery of support in emergency situations.

The convergence of community-based efforts and formal initiatives through formal government structures, primarily the Provincial Council on Disaster Management (PCDM) and the Commune Council on Disaster Management (CCDM), provides a sustainable partnership model for knowledge and technology transfer and future adjustments in CBDRM strategies.


















CBRM programs for droughts are generally characterized by provision of small-scale infrastructure (water catchments) construction and farming implements and materials. However, these programs do not have a strong skills training component for program recipients.




While many non-government organizations have been undertaking CBDRM or implementing CBDRM in their project activities, only CARE and Oxfam have systematically integrated DRR in project plans and development programs. To improve the quality and ensure sustainability of present and future CBDRR programs, it is necessary to conduct and document impact assessments of program interventions on CBDRM. In some areas, NGOs concluded project operations before local capacities were strong enough to sustain DRR activities.

## NEED TO DEVELOP A MULTI-HAZARD APPROACH

Given the traditional focus of CBDRM programs on flood and drought, many CBDRM programs neglect to consider emerging hazards in their analysis. Thus, a multi-hazard approach should be integrated into these programs. A number of NGOs started addressing emerging hazards like avian influenza, but a programmatic multi-hazard approach has not been taken by many CBDRM programs.

Table 3\_ Presence of NGOs working on CBDRR across provinces

PROVINCE	AA	AAH	CARE	CONCERN	CWS
Bantey Mencheay 	X				F, E
Batambang 					E
Kampong Cham		F		X	
Kampong Chnnang 				X	
Kampong Speu 					
Kampong Thom 					F, E
Kampong Som / Sihanoukville					
Kep					
Kampot 					
Kan d al  					
Kratie 	X				
Koh Kong					
Menduikiri		F			
Oddar Meanchey					
Pailin					
Preah Vihear					E
Prey Veng 			X, F		
Pursat 				X	
Ratamakiri 					
Siem Reap				X	
Slung Trang 					
Svay Rieng  	X		X		X
Takeo  					

-  Flood
-  Flash Flood
-  Drought

X-current program F-completed E-expansion planned

	LWF	OI	PLAN	WV	ZOA	CRC	#
	F						1
	X, F						1
			X				2
	X, F			X		X	4
	X, F						2
	F						
		X				X	3
						F, X	1
						X	2
						X	2
		X					2
		X				X	5
				X			1

Source: National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM)



## LESSONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF CBDRM

Despite the number of capacity building activities being implemented throughout the country, many NGOs point out that the present leadership and participation from the CDMs at all levels still fall short. To fill in the gap in governance, there should be sustained capacity building and development of new strategies and activities. Skill sets for CBDRM have to be considered. Aside from technical skills, village leaders and local government officials have to learn basic project operations and management.

Experiences from implementation show that building the capacity of local leaders and government structures in CBDRR do not guarantee transfer of knowledge and capacity to communities. To be successful, institutional capacity building has to be holistic in its approach and should consider the level of resources and limitations faced by implementing institutions to deliver CBDRR. For instance, the NCDM does not have enough staff and budget to coordinate and implement its activities. The same limitations are faced by PCDMs and DCDMs. In areas without external (NGO) assistance, PCDMs, DCDMs and CCDMs are practically non-existent. It is more realistic and practical to link the community-based initiatives to district and provincial levels while strengthening the national structures.

The NCDM needs to be strengthened as an institution so that it can lead the implementation of CBDRM activities on the ground. It needs the capacity to consistently manage and hold its counterparts accountable at the local level. Staffing at the Secretariat needs to be reinforced and NCDMs' access to national support for budget allocation for its activities and plans needs to be improved.

### THE ROLE OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN CBDRM

Non-governmental organizations have been at the forefront of organizing CDMS and field service delivery for CBDRM. Despite their primary role in CBDRM, NGOs face challenges in sustaining their efforts. First, community ownership has to be made an integral part of their participatory goals and to foster this ownership, NGOs need to present clear and transparent exit strategies during the entry phase.

Second, there is an observed lack of coordination among NGOs working in the field. This is evident in the geographical and programmatic distribution of CBDRM programs, with some areas

having high participation while others hardly having any NGO presence or CBDRM activity. To maximize human and financial resources, there should be a regular forum where NGOs can discuss and share their interventions, as well as their coverage areas. This is to minimize duplication of efforts among project partners and participating local communities. Sharing of key technical and social expertise on health, sanitation, and management is also a positive way to harmonize efforts and resources.

To analyze the impact of the various programs and projects implemented over the years, a comprehensive impact assessment can be organized jointly with organizations working in the same fields. This assessment will provide insights into the effectiveness and relevance of past and current efforts, and lead the development of new resources and strategies for CBDRM. The assessment will identify urgent areas for intervention and the appropriate actions – legislative, political, institutional and economic – to mainstream CBDRM.

NGOs will continue its leadership role in disaster management in the country. In doing this, a scaling up approach is called for. An emerging approach is the multi-hazard approach and this is projected to be the direction of future CBDRM projects. To maximize resources, they have to work with national and local structures to deliver CBDRM activities in the field. In a context of declining funding resources, NGOs have to mobilize new and local resources.

## CAPACITATING AND EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

The overall involvement of communities in CBDRM is the cornerstone of strategy to empower and capacitate communities in the face of natural disasters. This has to be integrated during the project set-up through social preparation activities during the inception phase. Efforts have to be supported by community social acceptance, thorough identification and disaggregation of data on stakeholders, and formal mandate and sustainable resource allocation.

## REFERENCES

### Project Documents

Asian Disaster Preparedness Center and National Committee on Disaster Management. Completed questionnaires for SNAP and CBDRM awards.

ADPC, NCDM and DIPECHO partners workshop and consultation documentations. 2004-2007

National Commission on Disaster Management (2008). *Draft SNAP report April 2008*.

International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC). *Cambodia Support Plan 2008-2009*.

Preap Sameng (2006). *Roadmap Toward Effective Flood Hazard Mapping in Cambodia, Concluding Report*. Phnom Penh.

United Nations Disaster Management Team (2007). *Cambodia Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan*

Wilderspin, C. (2006). *Report for the Evaluation of DIPECHO Action Plans in Southeast Asia*.

### Useful websites

Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre: [www.adpc.net](http://www.adpc.net)

Asian Disaster Reduction Centre: [www.adrc.or.jp](http://www.adrc.or.jp)

Mekong River Commission: [www.mrcmekong.org](http://www.mrcmekong.org)

National Committee on Disaster Management: [www.ncdm.gov.kh](http://www.ncdm.gov.kh)

Japan International Cooperation Agency: [www.jica.go.jp](http://www.jica.go.jp)

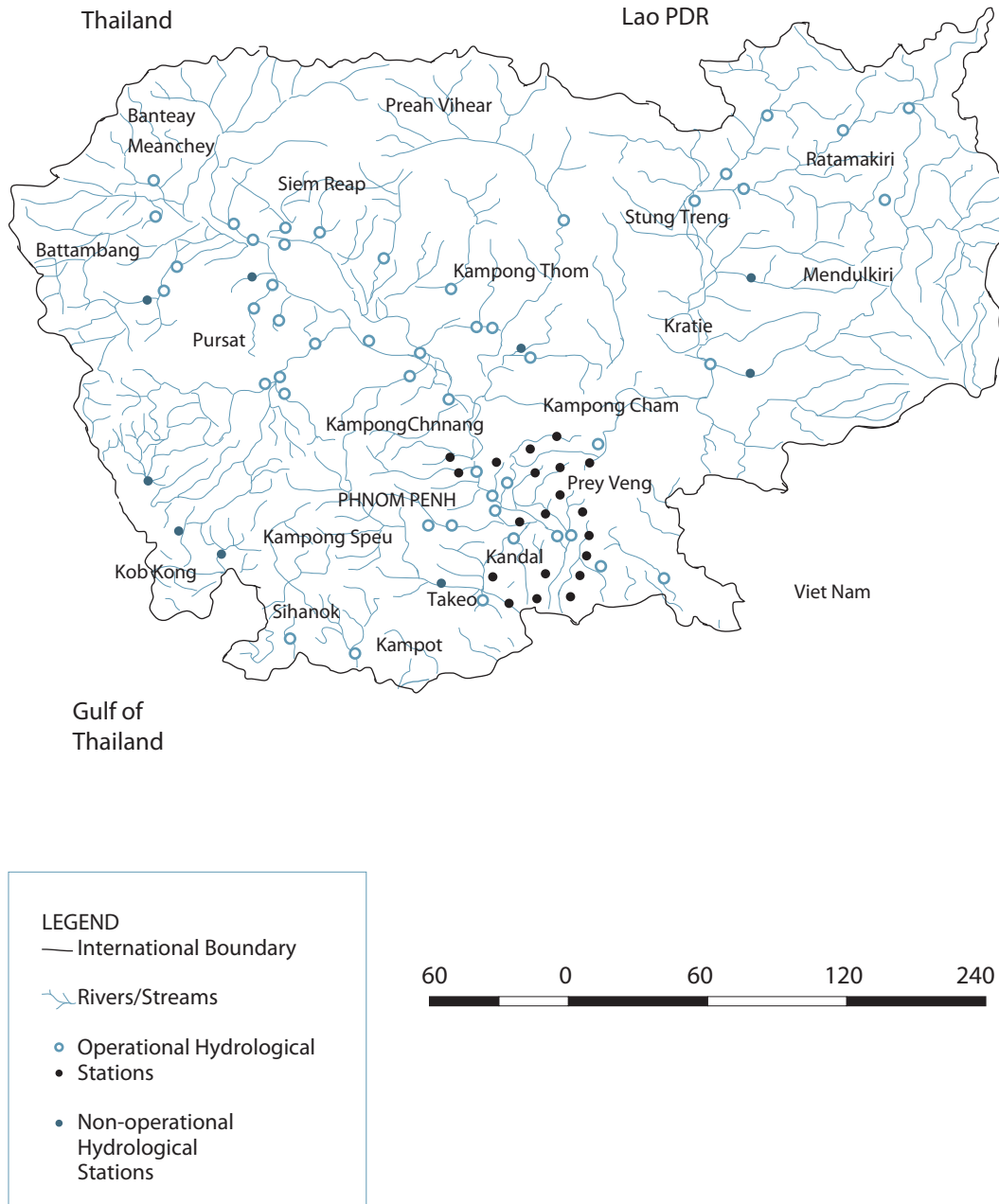
Emergency Events Database: [www.emdat.be](http://www.emdat.be)

The United Nations in Cambodia: [www.un.org.kh](http://www.un.org.kh)

World Food Programme: [www.wfp.org](http://www.wfp.org)

## ANNEX 1. CAMBODIA WATER AND RIVER SYSTEMS

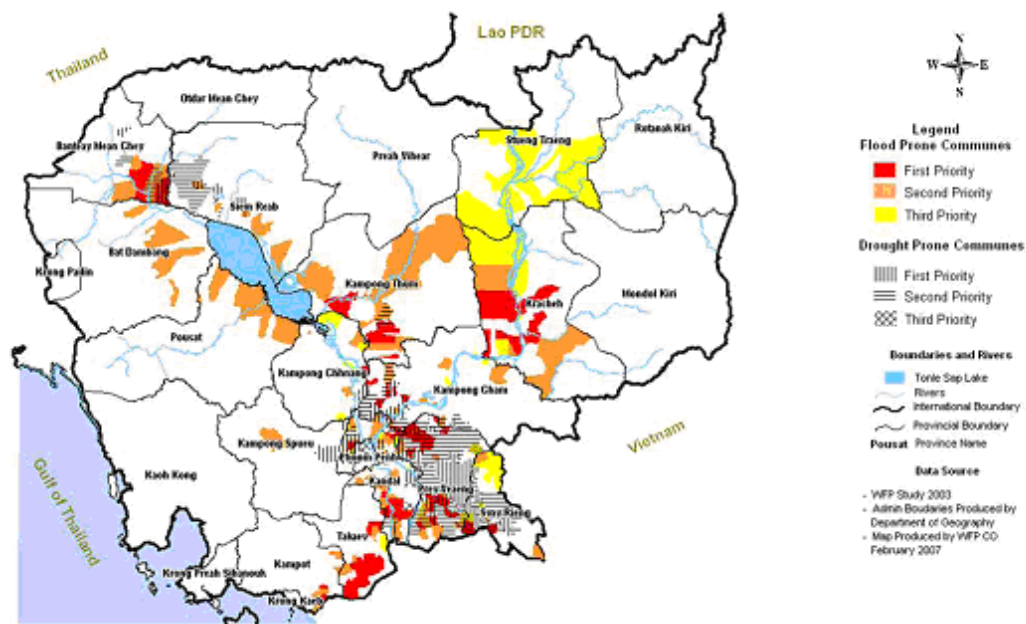
Diagram 1\_ Water and river systems in Cambodia



Source: World Food Programme

## ANNEX 2. MAP OF VULNERABLE COMMUNES

Diagram 2. Flood and drought in Cambodia



Source: World Food Programme

## ANNEX 3. ESTIMATED POPULATION UNDER FLOOD SCENARIO ( WFP/UN)

Province	Best case scenario		Mid case scenario		Worst case scenario	
	# communes	# people	# communes	# people	# communes	# people
Banteay Meanchey	4	13,339	13	53,215	13	53,215
Battambang	-	-	8	43,746	8	43,746
Kampong Cham	6	25,417	15	62,600	18	68,836
Kampong Chhnang	2	7,320	5	17,726	9	26,337
Kampong Speu	-	-	1	2,192	1	2,192
Kampong Thom	6	20,893	31	102,662	31	102,662
Kampot	2	3,563	9	19,651	9	19,651
Kandal	14	52,448	43	156,728	50	171,109
Kratie	8	18,558	12	23,691	17	31,384
Prey Veng	16	94,354	27	153,308	30	165,712
Pursat	-	-	13	40,510	13	40,510
Siem Reap	-	-	9	54,131	9	54,131
Stung Treng	-	-	0	0	18	9,900
Svay Rieng	3	12,288	7	22,437	15	56,848
Takeo	15	42,574	18	52,659	19	54,555
<b>Total</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>290,754</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>805,256</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>900,788</b>

Source: World Food Programme

## ANNEX 4. ESTIMATED POPULATION UNDER DROUGHT SCENARIO (WFP/UN)

Province	Best case scenario		Mid case scenario		Worst case scenario	
	# communes	# people	# communes	# people	# communes	# people
Banteay Meanchey	2	7,359	4	19,774	4	19,774
Kampong Cham	14	63,606	28	122,426	31	133,299
Kampong Chhnang	1	8,699	1	8,699	1	8,699
Kampong Speu	7	21,355	7	21,355	7	21,355
Kampong Thom	-	-	3	7,060	3	7,060
Kandal	36	113,337	43	146,628	56	201,320
Prey Veng	35	189,372	100	493,575	102	502,027
Siem Reap	6	34,133	20	93,584	21	99,715
Svay Rieng	19	69,507	42	139,443	45	142,631
Total	120	507,368	248	1,052,544	270	1,135,880

Source: World Food Programme

## ANNEX 5. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Roles and Responsibilities of the NCDM General Secretariat
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To ensure the continuity and functioning of the National Committee for Disaster Management administration</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To conduct research into the flood, drought, storm, wildfire, epidemics prone areas and other hazards by preparing Preparedness and Emergency Response plans.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To instruct the provincial, Municipal, District, Precinct, committee for Disaster Management and relief communities about work and technical skill that are the basis for collection of disaster data for damage and need assessment and prepare rehabilitation and reconstruction programmes of damaged infrastructure in co-ordination with institutions UN agencies, IOs, and NGOs concerned.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To formulate a technical skill training programme for officials who serve Disaster Management functions in provinces, municipalities, district, precinct, and relief communities within the framework of training in and out of the country</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To coordinate work with Ministries/Institutions concerned, local authorities, UN agencies, IOs, and NGOs in order to evacuate vulnerable people to haven and to provide them with security, public education, Emergency Response and other programmes</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To give opinion of the documents related to Disaster Management and the letters of consent. To sum the report up and submit it to the National Committee for Disaster Management. The General Secretariat of the National Committee for Disaster Management has 5 departments as mentioned in article below.</li> </ul>
The responsibilities of the Department of Administration and Finance shall be:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To administer and circulate the National Committee for Disaster Management administrative documents</li> </ul>

■	To sum up the National Committee for Disaster Management work and other activities
■	To govern the National Committee for Disaster Management civil servants
■	To collect the needs, formulate a budget proposal, plan a programme of expense, tract and remind of its execution
■	To coordinate the National Committee for Disaster Management budget line and expenses
■	To administer immovable property, movable object, stock of goods and its inventory

#### The responsibilities of the Department of Information and Relations shall be:

■	To follow weather information, and meteorology and hydrology situation
■	To write and compile disaster news
■	To issue information regarding various disasters occurring in and out of the country through bulletin and broadcasting system
■	To produce disaster posters and leaflets
■	To prepare report on hydrology and meteorology situation in collaboration with skilled Ministries/ Institutions and broadcast the warning of the emergency, needs and measures
■	To communicate with foreign countries and IOs regarding disaster work.

#### The responsibilities of the Department of Emergency Response and Rehabilitations shall be:

■	To establish a command structure in emergency operation according to the National Policy for Disaster Management upon receiving information on disaster predictions
■	To prepare a prevention/ mitigation/ emergency relief plan, and labor rehabilitation and rehabilitation programmes
■	To coordinate the research into hazards, services, emergency relief, safety, security, evacuation, and shelters with Ministries/ Institutions concerned, UN agencies, IOs, and NGOs
■	To conduct damage and needs assessment and lead the operation when emergency happens

#### The responsibilities of the Department of Preparedness and Training shall be:

■	To prepare equipment, materials and supplies for emergency response
■	To formulate plans and programmes for training human resources who serve Disaster Management function at the National/ Local level
■	To choose the candidates who participate in the training course in and out of the country
■	To educate and disseminate Disaster Preparedness to the local communities and the affected people
■	To publish pictorial documents related to Disaster Preparedness and Mitigation.

### The responsibilities of the Department of Search and Rescue shall be:

- To coordinate work with the Secretariat of State for Civil Aviation and Ministries/ Institutions concerned in order to conduct the activities in conformity with the organized legislative procedure
- To prepare a plan and submit it to the High-Command of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces regarding the use of means and SAR intervention forces
- To receive and dispatch information on aircraft/ ship accident and request principles, implementing regulations and instructions from the National Committee for Disaster Management related to the coordination of search and rescue
- To issue official announcement of the crash site when the information is double checked
- To prepare modality and conduct the SAR operation in collaboration with the neighboring country according to agreement on Search and Rescue
- To collaborate with Emergency Coordination Center of State Secretariat of Civil Aviation and identify SAR mission.

### DISASTER WORKING GROUP OF THE MINISTRY/ INSTITUTION

Each ministry/ institution has established the Disaster Working Group of the Ministry/ Institution in order to boost the spirit of self-reliance in participating and solving disaster. It is responsible for coordinating all activities involving Disaster Preparedness, Response and Rehabilitation.

### PROVINCIAL/ MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE FOR DISASTER MANAGEMENT

At each Province/Municipality there is Provincial/Municipal Committee for Disaster Management comprising the following membership:

The Provincial/ Municipal Governor	President
The Deputy Governor	Vice-President
The Chief of relevant Government Department and the Director of the Provincial/Municipal Red Cross	Members

The duties of the Provincial/ Municipal Committee for Disaster Management shall be:

- To implement the National Policy for Disaster Management
- To prepare guideline and support the activities of the District/ Precinct Committee for Disaster Management
- To make recommendation to the National Committee for Disaster Management on the activities of the institutions concerned and CRC, the Assistance of the National Organizations and IOs that participate in Disaster Prevention, Preparedness, Emergency Response and Rehabilitation.
- To write a report and submit it to the National Committee for Disaster Management regarding damage and make a budget proposal, a proposal of equipment, materials, means of transport and intervention force for action when there is Disaster
- To carry out the training program in order to strengthen the officials who serve Disaster Management functions with technical skill and public education programme at the communities

At each District/ Precinct there is District/ Precinct Committee for Disaster Management whose membership is:

The District/ Precinct Chief	President
The District/ Precinct Deputy	Vice-President
The Chief of relevant offices within the District/ Precinct and the Chief of the District/ Precinct Red Cross	Members

The duties of the District/ Precinct Committee for Disaster Management shall be:

- To implement the National Policy which is involved in Disaster Management
- To choose officials who participate in the training course on Disaster Management at the National or Provincial/ Municipal levels
- To prepare and disseminate disaster information to public
- To forward report on damage and needs to the Provincial/ Municipal Committee for Disaster Management

- To lead operations during disaster including relief assistance, evacuation, shelter, and medical supplies
- To forward the summary report on operation and relief assistance to the Provincial/ Municipal Committee for Disaster Management

## AUDITING UNIT

The Minister of the Ministry of Economic and Finance has established auditing Unit under the terms of regulations identified in Sub-Decree No. 81 dated 16 November 1998 on the establishment of auditing institution involving the expense of budget of the Ministries.





Partnerships for Disaster Reduction - South East Asia (PDR-SEA) is a multi-phased project implemented by UNESCAP and ADPC with funding support from the European Commission Humanitarian Aid department (ECHO) since 2001. The Phase 4 of PDR-SEA aims to institutionalise the effectiveness of CBDRM into socio-economic development process through strengthening of national and local capacity for the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action in order to build up community resilience in the project countries of Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Viet Nam. The project activities involve in strengthening and institutionalising CBDRM through local-level pilot activities, facilitating information dissemination through existing regional and national disaster risk management networks, enhancing ownership of CBDRM programs by developing the capacities of local authorities and promoting CBDRM through Disaster Management Practitioners' Forum.



The European Commission Humanitarian Aid department (ECHO) was set up in 1992 to provide rapid and effective support to the victims of crises outside the European Union. Recognising the importance of pre-emptive measures, ECHO launched its disaster preparedness programme, DIPECHO, in 1996. Disaster Preparedness ECHO targets vulnerable communities living in the main disaster-prone regions of the world and aims to reduce the vulnerability of the population. Between 1996 and 2004, ECHO provided more than 78 million Euro for 319 projects worldwide. These demonstrate that simple and inexpensive preparatory measures, particularly those implemented by communities themselves, are extremely effective in limiting damage and saving lives when disaster strikes. ECHO funds support training, capacity building, awareness-raising and early-warning projects as well the organisation of relief services. The programme has shown that even simple precautions can help save lives and property when disaster strikes. The funds are directed through ECHO and implemented by aid agencies working in the regions concerned. For more details, please visit [http://ec.europa.eu/echo/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/echo/index_en.htm)



The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) is the regional arm of the United Nations Secretariat for the Asian and Pacific regions, located in Bangkok, Thailand. UNESCAP is committed to materialise the visions of the United Nations Millennium Declaration, which was adopted by the UN General Assembly in September 2000. The PDR-SEA project is being implemented jointly by UNESCAP and ADPC at the regional level. For more details, please visit <http://www.unescap.org>



The Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), established in 1986 is a regional, inter-governmental, non-profit organisation and resource center based in Bangkok, Thailand. ADPC is mandated to promote safer communities and sustainable development through the reduction of the impact of disasters in response to the needs of countries and communities in Asia and the Pacific by raising awareness, helping to establish and strengthen sustainable institutional mechanisms, enhancing knowledge and skills, and facilitating the exchange of information, experience and expertise. For more details, please visit <http://www.adpc.net>

Partnerships for Disaster Reduction-  
South East Asia  
Phase 4

Disaster Management Systems  
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