



Cambodia

# Protect, Prepare & Progress through Policy

## Updating the National Flood Preparedness Plan

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## Disasters & Impact

*The ebb and flow of seasonal water levels sustain Cambodian life. Generations of fishermen use their knowledge of the shifting tides and the aquatic migration patterns to significantly contribute to the economic stability and food security of their communities. Fisheries in the lower Mekong Basin transport approximately 4.4 million tons of goods annually, accounting for more than 18% of the national gross domestic product (GDP).*

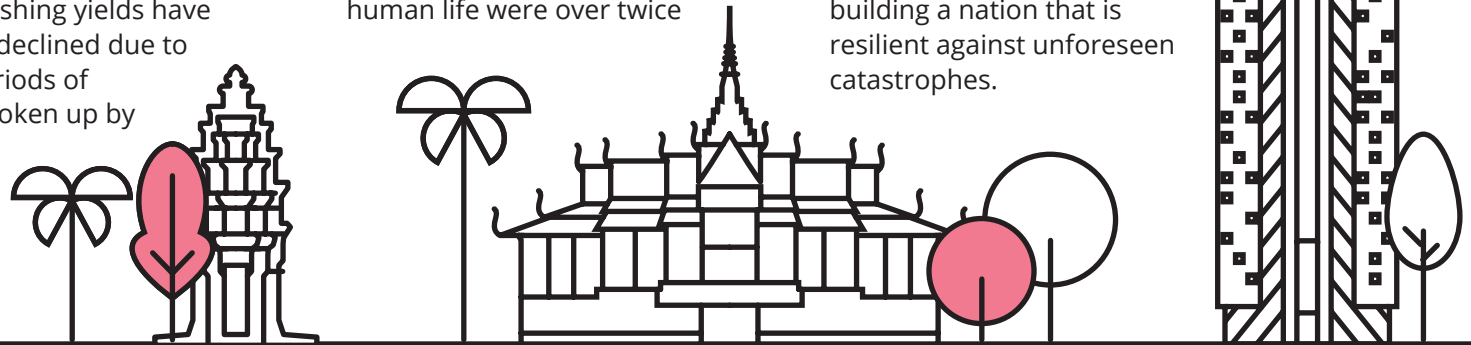
Cambodians have built their livelihoods around the Mekong basin with about 80% of the country residing in the basin. 17 million people depend on the basin's fertile lands and waters for income and sustenance. Recent increases in the severity and frequency of monsoon flooding make living along the Mekong uncertain and insecure. Communities struggle to endure the unexpected surges and subsequent destruction of farmlands and infrastructure. Fishing communities are hit especially hard by uncontrolled flooding. Fishing yields have drastically declined due to lengthy periods of drought broken up by

floods. For instance, volume of aquaculture decreased by 8.5% between 2020 - 2021.

Floods accounted for more than 45% of all disaster events in Cambodia between 1980 and 2020. The country has become inured to monsoon rain, waterlogged fields, and stranded villages. Recent flood events have affected livelihoods in over three-fourths of Cambodian provinces. These catastrophes are now more severe and sporadic. In 2017, for example, flood damages to property and human life were over twice

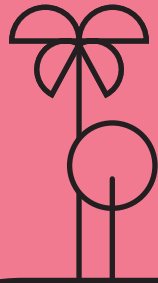
as high as in 2016. Moreover, tropical typhoons cause flooding, which often creates a more devastating aftermath than the storms themselves.

The cascading and complex nature of natural disasters demands comprehensive solutions that prepare communities for all stages of future disasters. Relevant guidelines that designate systems and harness the potential disaster risk management (DRM) actors turn the tides towards building a nation that is resilient against unforeseen catastrophes.





# National Flood Overview



**155**

average casualties annually  
(1996-2020)



**6,180**

average homes destroyed/damaged annually  
(1996-2019)



**21**

average  
floods annually (1980-2020)



**45.5**

% of total  
disaster events (1980-2020)



9.5



4.6



5.2

Cambodia has an overall risk index of 4.8. The country's most common disaster events of floods (9.5), tsunamis (5.2), and droughts (4.6).



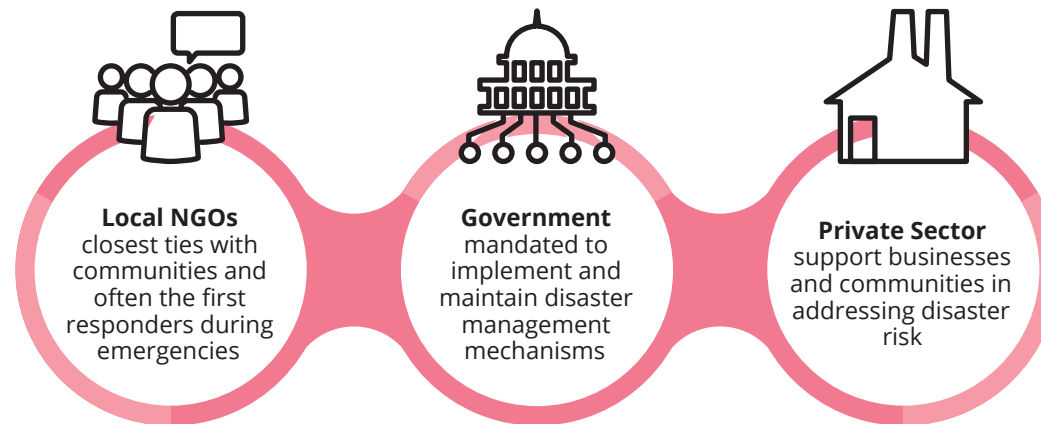
## The APProach

The Asian Preparedness Partnership (APP), established by the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), is a unique multi-stakeholder regional partnership that includes countries from South and Southeast Asia to better prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters. Supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (the foundation) and the United States Agency for International Development Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID BHA), the partnership strives to improve stakeholder

coordination and dialogue between governments, local humanitarian organization networks, and the private sector for enhancing capacities through partnerships, knowledge resources, training, and networking opportunities.

APP's goal is to promote safer and well-prepared communities through locally-led disaster risk management (DRM) actions, so that disaster impacts on at-risk communities of Asia will be reduced.

APP on localization: "A process whereby local, sub-national and national humanitarian actors, namely governments, civil society and non-government organizations, the private sector, media, academia, etc., take a lead role, in a collaborative manner to plan and implement priority actions in disaster preparedness, humanitarian response, and recovery through mobilizing internal resources and external humanitarian funding."

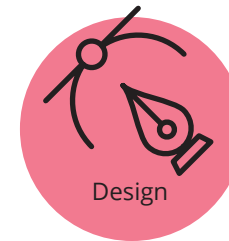
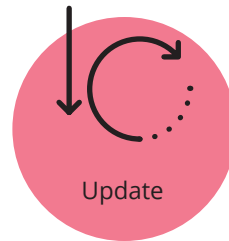




# APP endorses policy enablers as frameworks to enhance



by bringing stakeholders together to



more comprehensive national and local plans for





## Engage, Expand & Empower a Multistakeholder System

The Mekong river stretches across five countries and 70 million people. Its reach tells a story as rich as the soil along the basin, transforming food insecurity into economic development in the region. Asia's rice bowl owes its title to the nutrient-rich sediment carried downriver by the Mekong during the rainy season. More than half the sediment in central Cambodia comes from China. The river basin is the largest inland fishery in the world and accounts for almost one-fourth of the world's freshwater catch, estimated to be worth more than USD 3 billion annually. Everyday life is just as diverse across the river. There are villages floating, farmers harvesting, fishermen casting nets, markets drifting, and traders exchanging goods across its 4,350 kilometers. Climate change threatens to change this narrative with flood risk and potential damages across the Mekong basin expected to increase by 5 to 10 times relative to 2008 by 2040.



Over 300,000 hectares of cropland included 200,000 hectares of rice fields were destroyed.



Flood watch  
October 2020



161,552 homes were damaged or destroyed

The floods affected 800,000 people across 19 provinces.





# Flood Contingency Plan Milestones

2017

Conducted training on contingency plan development with local organizations and NCDM

2018

2020

Conducted early warning (1294) training for provisional committees and SMEs

Organized Humanitarian National Coordination workshop with DRM stakeholders

Developed proposal to update National CP for Flood Response and Preparedness

2021

Coordinated consultative meeting with PPC partners and DRM actors to update the National CP for Flood Response and Preparedness

Organized project inception workshop with NCDM, international and national NGOs, and the private sector

Conducted two joint-refresher training on emergency assessment for CHF Emergency Assessment Team (EAT) and NCDM's Emergency Response Assessment Team (ERAT)

2022





# Preparedness Partnership of Cambodia (PPC)

**National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM)**

**Cambodian Humanitarian Forum (CHF)**

**Federation of Associations for SMEs of Cambodia (FASMEC)**

The Preparedness Partnership of Cambodia (PPC) brought together relevant stakeholders to coordinate, update, and expand the potential of existing strategies. It started bridging the gap between the National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM), relevant civil society organizations (CSO), and the private sector. The partnership organized workshops focusing on knowledge sharing and capacity building as well as promoting the APP model in 2018. Government officials and members of civil society discuss strategies to bridge institutional gaps, especially at the local level where civilians are more isolated and vulnerable to flooding. Additionally, the Federation of Associations for Small and Medium Enterprises of Cambodia (FASMEC), PPC's private sector partner, also integrated disaster preparation into its planning through the partnership. Disaster-resilient business sectors are essential to Cambodia's economy with micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) making up 90% of all enterprises and more than half the GDP. FASMEC's engagement was evident within a year of cooperation. Their members had incorporated institutionalized capacity building, awareness raising, knowledge sharing, and stakeholder coordination into their business framework by 2019.

The magnified effects of disaster events have motivated actors to acknowledge the need for resilience. However, change can only begin when priorities become policy. NCDM outlines disaster-specific plans such as the Flood Preparedness Plan under the overall National

Contingency Plan (NCP). The main objective of this plan is to ensure that flood-affected provinces have adequate capacity to manage and respond effectively to disasters, especially in the most vulnerable households. These plans need to be updated with the transforming landscape, but they remained stagnant due to a lack of planning capacity and financial resources. PPC was able to mobilize partners from all sectors to revise the scope of the plan and recruit experts to update and expand its prospects. The planning and input process was supported by several stakeholders, including international non-governmental organizations (INGOs), local NGOs, United Nations (UN) agencies, and FASMEC representatives.

The 2021 update of the National Contingency's Flood Preparedness Plan is a testament to the integrated effort of all sectors catalyzed by PPC. FASMEC's contributions to the plan signified the first time a private sector network has defined its role and responsibility during a disaster event under a national policy. The association provided insights and planning to support MSMEs. They also identified key businesses that required support against disaster events. Updating the Flood Preparedness Plan has unlocked the potential for cooperation when outlining preparedness and response plans. Such concerted efforts have set the groundwork for sustainable updating mechanisms on a yearly basis. It underlined the importance of partnerships to consolidate effective and extensive planning with potential disasters in mind.








The national partnership's network comprises of



**133** government officials



**135** CSOs



**100** SMEs

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# PPC Milestones

2018

86 participants received ToTs on disaster management and planning, and emergency assessment

67 participants attended a business resilience forum for private sector

PPC was formally established under APP regional platform

2021

53 participants attended 2 PRISM trainings

13,884 (6,607 females) and indirect 56,767 (27,245) people are the beneficiaries in COVID-19 Response project

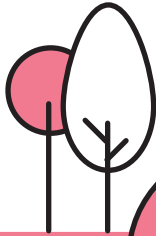
428 participants workshops on strengthening locally-led actions in the country

Guidelines for **Mainstreaming Gender in Inclusive DRM and Fundraising Guideline on Disaster Management for SMEs** developed

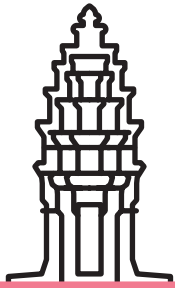
283 participants took part in coordination and network building meetings on locally-led actions

184 participants engaged in 1294 EWS and emergency assessment

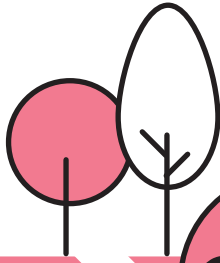
2022







29 participants engaged in flood assessment simulation exercise



2019

Training curriculum on Disaster Management and Emergency Assessment developed

120 participants attended gender workshop

31 front-line workers participated in experience exchange on health centres' strategies for COVID-19 response

2020

8 EAT-CHF members were deployed to join Flood Assessment jointly led by NCDM and CHF

70 participants engaged in CHF/ PPC Annual Review Workshop

39 SMEs attended the business continuity plan training

110 SMEs joined 2 fundraising guideline rollout workshops



46 participants engaged in a national coordination workshop on DRM enhancement

45 ministry members participated in a simulation exercise workshop

85 attendees partook in PPC's Annual Lessons Learnt Workshop

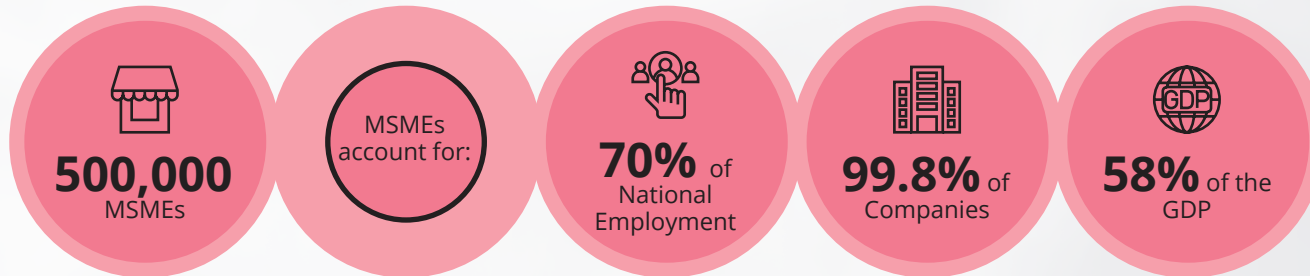




## H.E. Prak Kimhong Deputy Secretary General, National Committee for Disaster Management

His Excellency (H.E.) Prak Kimhong views management as a tool that builds systems that work. He pursued a Master's Degree in the field with the vision of making challenges rational and solutions constructive, "Effective disaster management uses knowledge and tools about preparedness and response to address the changing nature of these catastrophes." Prak is a trained practitioner

in supervising ideas and people. It led him to serve as the Deputy Secretary General of the NCDM and government focal point for PPC, "My background and experience help me engage in dialogues to improve preparedness and response capacities in Cambodia. Efficient action from such diverse stakeholders requires supervision and guidance."





Coordination between stakeholders has become more systemic through PPC's coordination, according to Prak. His committee has seen greater integration with other partnership members, "The stakeholders have been able to use PPC as a tool to improve knowledge sharing across sectors. We have methodically revised early warning systems and other guidelines." Prak specifies associations with the private sector as a strong suit of the national partnership. "Organizing trainings, workshops, and progress meetings with the private sector have enhanced our interface with the business community. We have developed a fundraising guideline on DRM for enterprises and arranged an SME DRM Champion competition."

Updating the NCP was a multi-step process that required collecting existing research, mapping the current DRM scenario, and applying these considerations for future modifications. Prak details the many stages before the final draft was submitted for review, "PPC initiated the process by using a preliminary guideline template to identify what data needed to be collected before recommendations and adjustments could be made." He links forming specialized bodies to train in field data collection: "The NCDM technical working group and its team of experts used the compiled information to start drafting the new contingency plan. This was followed by a consultative workshop where all partners gave their input. Our committee approved, published, and disseminated the working group's final draft."





## Streaming Below the Surface

The Flood Contingency Plan reflects the potential of synergistic partnerships for strategies that are effective and specific to national disaster landscapes. Prak has started to witness the design process being replicated elsewhere, “The plan is serving as a road map for any disaster management decision. It has already led to discussions about joint coordination between relevant partners and the government. This will reduce losses and other preventable impacts.” Replicating methods that work leads to changing entire approaches. The National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction (NAP-DRR) seeks ‘to pursue proactive and integrated ways to reduce risk to hazards through sustainable, innovative and realistic strategies with stronger partnership of all

stakeholders’. PPC supported the revision of this plan as it aligns with the partnership’s efforts to DRM actors to fortify local partnerships

National actions have driven modifications of sub-national level strategies. “Some provinces have updated their Contingency Plan for Flood and Contingency Plan for Drought based on the national plan developed by NCDM and our partners. These have been used to address low-scale disaster events in their respective provinces,” observes Prak. Effective DRM requires local mechanisms to complement national plans, making these developments highly significant for disaster protection across Cambodia.

## Cambodia

**1 in 10** children have a disability

**17.8%** of the population live under the national poverty line

**75%** of the population live in rural areas

**15%** of adult women completed secondary education as of 2018



**“The partnership supports local agents to achieve strong coordination, strengthened preparedness and response capacities, and deeper familiarity with humanitarian standards through workshops on the gender mainstreaming guideline and assessment tools for humanitarian norms”**

### **Frameworks with Everyone in the Picture**

Marginalized communities more than often face the most severe effects of disasters. Flooding makes daily routines even more challenging for impoverished families across Cambodia. During the monsoon season, the disasters cause a higher dropout rate than any other period of the year. The loss of livelihood forces many families to focus on supporting living conditions over education. Damaged infrastructure and disruptions in public transport disrupt access to education for many students. Prak commends PPC for enabling inclusive solutions for disasters by directing engagement at the subnational and district levels, “The partnership supports local agents to achieve strong coordination, strengthened preparedness and response capacities, and deeper familiarity with humanitarian standards through workshops on the gender mainstreaming guideline and assessment tools for humanitarian norms.”

PPC introduced the Gender Mainstreaming Guideline with relevant experts as well as national and international partners. Prak perceives the framework as an insightful approach to disaster management with an understanding of gender-based social inclusion and protection needs,

“After introducing gender mainstreaming as a key objective in its programs, PPC organized a workshop in 2021 for its stakeholders in partnership with several major international humanitarian organizations. They wanted to ensure that application of the guideline was also implicit.” He also endorses the partnership’s attention to the business sector, “PPC facilitated the development of a fundraising guideline for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). This guideline offers an introduction to the potentially daunting world of development fundraising and was disseminated through the partnership’s network in 2021.”

Prak concludes that the perspective of administration and operations needs to shift to the potential of action over possible aftermaths, “Despite the strength of a comprehensive NCP, flooding will always present significant risks in Cambodia. Partnerships need to envision regular updates to policies that adapt to transforming landscapes as compulsory.” He asserts that PPC’s support will maximize the protective capacity of the plan, “The partnership was designed to bring together actors on a platform where they can listen and learn from each other, and ultimately protect their own communities from disasters.”





## **Nop Polin**

### **Program Coordinator**

### **Climate Change and Humanitarian Response**

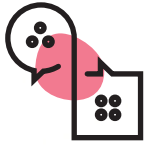
### **DanChurchAid**

Nop Polin was drawn to DanChurchAid (DCA) because the organization considers a sustainable future to be everyone's responsibility, "We believe that the community itself and stakeholders need to be equally involved towards a world without hunger, poverty, and oppression."

The coordinator saw DCA's approach coming to light when their organization joined the NCP process, "A small and informal technical working group was formed to review the previous plan and other references. They devised a focused and practical strategy that elaborated on all of our roles in disaster response and preparedness." He appreciated PPC to include and ensure the inputs of non-state actors, "The NCP process introduced us to many of the PPC's partners like Cambodia Humanitarian Forum (CHF), the Humanitarian Response Forum (HRF), and FASMEC. We felt a more prominent role in the national order because our considerations were being institutionalized into official plans."

Consensus toward the same goal built greater comprehension of the fragmented national response mechanisms. Nop states, "The NCP updating process was orchestrated in a participatory and coordinated manner. Technical inputs from relevant stakeholders enabled all of us to better understand each other's work. We can now align our disaster preparedness and response on coordination, assessment, communication, and potential joint response." He credits PPC for laying the groundwork for the continued collaboration between NCDM and CSOs, "There has been a clear improvement to overall cooperation and coordination, learning and sharing, and disaster preparedness and response capacity."





## Srei Kosal

### Executive Director

### Partnership for Development of Kampuchea

Srei Kosal and his team at Partnership for Development in Kampuchea (Padek) focus on those who are often not represented - "We work to assist disadvantaged rural communities to improve their livelihoods and quality of life." With more than 75% of the national population living in rural areas, local champions like Srei Kosal are necessary for inclusive resilience.

The director found similarities between the Padek and PPC's working modalities, "I noticed that the NCP update workshop was a bottom-up participatory process that considered how disasters affect all demographics. The partnership consulted with vulnerable communities as well as key practitioners and stakeholders at the sub-national level before considering any changes to the drafted protocol." The approach guaranteed that marginalized voices had a stake in plans impacting their communities. Srei also concludes that the NCP update workshop improved individual stakeholders' capacity to contribute toward DRM systems: "Reviewing policies was a learning experience in national efforts and response to disasters. A wider lens of individual stakeholder actions has also shifted our collective action to be more symbiotic." He also found the opportunity to reflect on his own work, "I have a better understanding of national policies which allows me to align our organization's preparedness and response plan with the NCP."

PPC brings stakeholders at the forefront of DRM into dialogues that are incomplete without their practice knowledge of national disaster events. Srei credits the effectiveness of PPC training because it centers on connectivity, "The workshop and other training events introduced me to the private sector. These sessions also standardize DRR acumen and awareness."



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