

After developing the plans, I started to prepare a dissemination plan to raise awareness about the impacts of climate change and preparedness at the village level. Thanks to the training I received, I felt confident to talk about climate change impact and how to prepare for future disasters. We started with focusing our efforts on **reaching farmers** in six villages to raise awareness about the impact of climate change and adaptation activities and/or ways of coping with disaster, especially drought. Through this initial plan, we were able to reach 965 people, or 64% of total adult farmers in the Roka commune. I plan to conduct more sessions this year to reach the rest of the farmers.

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My advice for other commune leaders is to get involved in the dissemination of knowledge on disaster management and encourage communities to get involved in disaster preparedness via trainings and communication with other stakeholders. We should trust ourselves and take opportunities to get involved in disaster risk management and integrate disaster risk reduction activities into the Commune’s Development Plans.



Mrs. Sim Pov attends a training for farmers in Roka commune.

A Woman Champion for Building Community Resilience in Cambodia

The Preparedness Partnership of Cambodia (PPC) conducted a training on Disaster Management to ensure leaders and communities can identify and mitigate hazards



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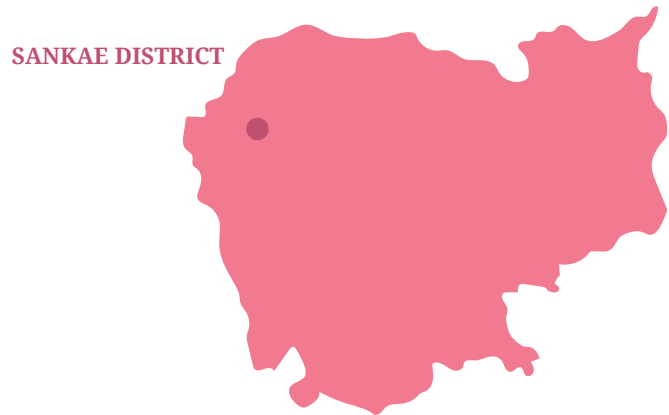
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The interviewee has explicitly given consent to have their responses recorded and the content, including photographs, published digitally or in print for APP communication purposes.



NAME	Mrs. Sim Pov
TITLE	Commune Chief
YEARS WORKING IN DISASTER RESPONSE	7
WORKING AREA	Roka Commune, Sankae District, Battambang Province



CONTEXT

Roka commune is located in Western Cambodia. As the Commune Chief, I am committed to helping the people of Roka become resilient to **strong winds, short term drought, and flash floods**, all of which affect the livelihoods of the people in our community. I am working to ensure that these tasks are included in the commune action plan in 2019.

In my role there are many government/commune tasks I need to perform and dedicating adequate time to disaster risk reduction has been a challenge. From talking with community members, I have come to realize that they have limited knowledge and experience in disaster preparedness and response. This made me realize the urgency of prioritizing disaster preparedness. However, we have a lack of resources, especially budget, to implement disaster preparedness and a response plan in Roka.

Knowing that there is lack of understanding regarding disasters, I see a great need to assist my community and raise awareness about disaster preparedness via training workshops and disaster preparedness activities. I want to reduce vulnerabilities and loss of lives, properties, and the environment. My vision is to see communities understand the importance of disaster preparedness and modern agriculture technologies so that their livelihoods can improve. This will lead to poverty reduction.

IDENTIFYING THE HAZARDS

The Preparedness Partnership of Cambodia (PPC) conducted a training on **Disaster Management** which disseminated the 2015 Law on Disaster Management to the Commune Committee of Disaster Management (CCDM) of Roka. As a participant and Commune Chief, I had the opportunity to be actively involved in group discussions and practice the application of disaster preparedness tools. I was really interested in identifying hazards in my

Photo: Chris Mannolini



Sankae district, Cambodia, is prone to flash floods.

commune and adopting methods to mitigate them. I am grateful for the opportunity to have learned new skills and engage with other stakeholders, and believe this experience was vital to helping me perform my duties to the commune as mandated by the law.

MOVING FORWARD

A few weeks after the training, I organized a series of meetings to develop **Commune Emergency Preparedness and Response Plans (EPRP)** with all commune council members and village disaster management groups in my commune. While collecting data for the EPRP, I encouraged all village chiefs and CCDM members to consult with people by using the tools they learned from the course.

Thanks to the training I received, I felt confident to talk about climate change impact and how to prepare for future disasters. ”



Mrs. Sim Pov speaks in the community about emergency preparedness planning.