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SUSTAINABLE WATER PARTNERSHIP IN CAMBODIA

The USAID-funded Sustainable Water Partnership (SWP) develops and implements participatory water resource management to strengthen water security, which is essential to improving public health and livelihoods, alleviating poverty and supporting economic growth as well as political stability.

IMPROVING WATER SECURITY IN THE STUNG CHINIT WATERSHED

The Stung Chinit watershed is one of several flowing into the central Tonle Sap Lake in Cambodia. Water-related risks in Stung Chinit are increasing due to climate and land use change, unsustainable use of water resources, and rising demands for water from a growing population. Communities' access to clean, affordable, reliable water for health and economic growth relies on finding ways to address these increasing water-related risks.

SWP works with local community and business leaders along with provincial authorities to identify, assess and manage key water security risks. Through a Water Security Improvement Process, SWP:

- Engages water user groups and promotes their active participation in managing water resources and services. Stakeholders in Stung Chinit have identified agricultural pollution, industrial wastewater, irrigation allocation, and poor access to safe drinking water and sanitation as main risks to their water security.
- Develops tools and models that allow for better use of data and evidence in making water-related decisions.
- Facilitates a structured process with working groups making water-related decisions that address priority risks, as well as some of their drivers (for example, deforestation or land use change).



“ Water security is the adaptive capacity to safeguard the sustainable availability of, access to, and safe use of an acceptable and reliable quantity and quality of water for health, livelihoods, ecosystems, and productive activities resilient to risks and conflicts.”



The CEO Water Mandate

- Supports the design and implementation of on-the-ground actions that achieve tangible benefits through a combination of grey and green infrastructure, behavior change campaigns, and institutional/managerial improvements.
- Guides the formalization of the collaborative process through the establishment of a River Basin Management Committee.
- Builds institutional capacity for collaboration, learning and adaptive management by involving provincial and national officials and the Tonle Sap Authority.

INTERMEDIATE RESULTS

SWP is implementing a stakeholder-driven water security improvement process that has so far:

- Identified and engaged 40 local leaders from farming, fishing and forestry communities along with provincial authorities.
- Conducted a multi-disciplinary assessment including: a stakeholder inventory and analysis, a water quality testing campaign, a household Knowledge Attitudes Practices survey, a biodiversity assessment, and a land use change and water balance study.
- Acknowledged and prioritized four key water risks (access to drinking water and sanitation, agricultural pollution, environmental impacts from upstream land concessions, and irrigation allocation), and formed four working groups to develop and implement actions to mitigate those risks.
- Partnered with Water.org to provide over 35,000 people with microloans for building their own piped water connections and latrines.
- Developed a basin hydrological model using the WEAP decision support system to better understand the future magnitude and occurrence of floods and droughts.
- Initiated the process of establishing a River Basin Management Committee to provide a sustainable transparent platform for water management at watershed level.

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Our vision is a water secure world, where people have sustainable supplies of water of sufficient quantity and quality to meet human, economic, and ecosystem needs while managing risks from floods and droughts.”

U.S. Government Global Water Strategy, 2017