

Connecting women-led
local realities with the
global discourse on
climate adaptation and
DRR: Interrogating
women's lived
experiences in
Cambodia and Vanuatu



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1. Summary

The project enhanced Cambodia and ni-Vanuatu community women’s collective leadership to learn from each other on climate changes and related disasters in Cambodia and Vanuatu. Women were facilitated to identify their learning including successes and challenges and materials they wanted to share with fellow women. In the process they learnt how to collect, document and present case studies.

The original intention was to bring women together in a face to face Joint Learning Workshop in Cambodia but following the COVID pandemic this was modified to an online workshop. In the Learning workshop 37 women were able to learn from each other on adaptation and struggles with climate change despite vast differences in context and culture.

Nine case studies were presented focusing on ways in which women developed technical skills and confidence to claim their rights and adapt to climate change. They highlighted the ways in which women can build a bridge between their own knowledge and scientific knowledge

The skills and learning of the community women will be used by them and strengthened in future. Opportunities will be sought to continue to bring them together to strengthen solidarity, exchange further learning and advocate collectively for more gender responsive policies, laws and practices related to climate change adaptation.

2. Objectives

To explore enhanced community women’s leadership capacity to participate in, and connect, national and global agendas on CC and related disasters, contributing to the three goals of the GRACC framework:

- 1) Improving mutual awareness between scientific knowledge and women’s local knowledge of CC and DRR
- 2) Increasing community women’s participation in responding to crises to improve sustainable alternatives to CC.
- 3) Promoting community women’s collective action to integrate crisis responses into long-term development outcomes that are gender responsive.

3. Outputs, Outcomes and Impacts

Outputs	Outcomes	Impacts
A Joint on-line learning workshop was held at the end	In the workshop after presentation of the case	After learning from pre-learning workshop

Outputs	Outcomes	Impacts
<p>of February. The workshop was attended by 37 women (12 in Vanuatu and 25 in Cambodia) and AAC and AAA staff members. It was facilitated by a skilled consultant which was not paid for by the project but an AAAustralia in-kind contribution</p>	<p>studies and discussions, the women reflections were as followis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The potential of mobile phones and apps to receive early warnings to prepare for and respond to climate crises. - The use of safe spaces to protect women and women with disabilities when there are climate crises. - The ways in which women could influence for local authorities for Government services. - The types of infrastructure that would help women to adapt to climate change and the role of women in installing them - The role of climate crises on unpaid work - The importance of women led community based protection in preparing for and responding to climate crises. 	<p>exchanges, women Champions in Cambodia took the following actions to combat climate change: in Kampot Province, people advocated for local authorities to install drainage canals to control floods that affected the roads in the area every year. Another example is in Pursat, where the Women Champions shared an idea with the local authority to build a water gate and small canal for retaining water in the dry season to produce rice three times a year.</p> <p>Women in the workshop were able to identify common issues despite vast differences in context, language and culture. They will have improved solidarity to advocate for more favourable policies and practices</p>
<p>9 case studies were collected and presented in the Joint Learning Exchange</p> <p>Women Champions directly met with other community</p>	<p>The case studies allowed the women to reflect on the topics described above.</p>	<p>Both in-person and online training sessions that were conducted as part of the project enabled Women Champions to produce case studies, take good photos, and</p>

Outputs	Outcomes	Impacts
women, listening to their stories, and writing them up	The Women Champions were also able to learn about issues of other community women and the solutions to their climate related issues	analyse and report the issues and impacts.
Community Women leaders were supported as local resources through preparing for and attending the workshop and being invited to speak	<p>There was relationship-building between Women Champions, women within the communities and local/national authorities.</p> <p>The Women Champions have gained experience, had face-to-face meetings with community women, learned how to join in online meetings and had a better understanding of how to develop case studies with photos.</p>	Women will continue to use these skills and relationships in ongoing projects in Vanuatu and Cambodia
The participants in the meeting held a discussion on the ways that they could establish an on-going Community of Practice in the meeting	The participants were willing to create a facebook group to stay connected	The participants identified the ways in which they could continue to learn from each other, the benefits this might bring to their communities and the support they need to continue this connection
The participants in the learning exchange undertook advocacy planning in the Joint learning exchange	<p>In the meeting the women participants identified</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Key stakeholders in their contexts that work on climate change and related crises and the ways in which they are involved - The messages that women want to give these stakeholders. 	The women will be able to use this information in ongoing projects in Vanuatu and Cambodia

Outputs	Outcomes	Impacts
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The opportunities where such messages could be delivered 	

4. Key facts/figures

- 1 online/hybrid workshop (with a face to face gathering in Phnom Penh and a face to face gathering in Port Vila) was held in Cambodia and Vanuatu with the attendance of 37 women. This was held in February 2023 and was for 2 days
- 1 preparatory meeting was held in Port Vila, Vanuatu with the attendance of 10 women
- 21 participants attended an online baseline/inception and training to collect case studies workshop in Cambodia
- a half day on-line workshop was held in Cambodia for 22 women to establish criteria for selection of case studies
- a face to face meeting was held in November 2022 with 15 participants in Cambodia to select case studies

5. Publications

There were no formal publications from the activity

6. Media reports, videos and other digital content

- A farmer benefited from the Gender Responsive Alternatives for Adaptation to Climate Change Project, and a case study was written about her by a Women Champion in this project. Her case study was published during Women’s Rights Day in March 2023. [Facebook Link](#)
- The story of Women Champion which is touching the story of a woman leader who transformed her life with the theme "Behind the Life of Women" was posted on the [facebook](#) of ActionAid Cambodia

7. Pull quotes

Mrs. Oeun Samposh, Senior Program Officer, who coordinated the CAPABLE Project in ActionAid Cambodia mentioned that “It's inspiring to see these women leaders whom I have been working with from seeing them sharing what they learnt on a national and international stage and sharing their experiences on the ground across the globe”. She also added that “the project is useful for promoting women leaders from both countries to learn from one another on Disaster Risk Reduction-Climate Change and Gender. They are able to communicate effectively even if it is online and understand the context from each country very well. I believe APN will continue to fund such projects in the future”.

Dr Sally Henderson, Head of Programmes ActionAid Australia who attended the online Joint Learning Session, “It is remarkable how similar women’s experiences and issues around climate change are, even across cultures and different contexts. Such learning exchanges even online can build solidarity which can provide a huge contribution toward gender responsiveness in climate change

8. Acknowledgments

We acknowledge the commitment and passion of community women in Vanuatu and Cambodia who were engaged in the project. We thank Joyce Das for providing facilitation of the workshop and for drafting the scientific paper. We thank ActionAid Cambodia and Vanuatu for their hard work to make the learning workshop a reality and acknowledging that the day after the workshop 2 Force 5 cyclones hit Vanuatu

9. Appendices

- Learning exchange report
- Scientific manuscript
- Gender responsive alternatives to climate change framework