



Photo: CARE/Nicolas Axelrod

CARE Cambodia: Increasing Climate Change Resilience

CARE is committed to strengthening poor people’s capacities to deal with shocks and stresses, manage risks, and transform their lives in response to new hazards and opportunities. Simultaneously, CARE seeks to address their underlying causes of vulnerability, and improve the systems and structures that support people in the face of shocks and stresses.

Climate change poses a fundamental threat to sustainable economic development and, therefore, is a critical threat to CARE’s mission to tackle global poverty.

In Cambodia, **enhancing communities’ resilience** has become increasingly important as Cambodians feel the impacts of a changing climate.

CARE aims to support those who are most vulnerable, **particularly women and girls**, to learn and adapt so they can withstand shocks and stresses resulting from changes in the climate.

CARE’s work on climate change resilience in Cambodia contributes to the global goals in CARE’s 2020 program strategy:

CLIMATE CHANGE IN CAMBODIA

Cambodia is vulnerable to a range of different climate-related impacts.



Cambodia saw significant increases in temperature in 2016, with the Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology reporting April 2016 to be the country’s hottest month on record. This, combined with decreasing groundwater reserves, resulted in a significant drought affecting large swathes of the country.



Climate change will result in increased rainfall variability with longer and warmer dry seasons, and more rainfall during the wet season in Cambodia. Unpredictable rainfall and unsustainable land use practices (deforestation) as well as infrastructure development (up-river dams) have put the livelihoods of many Cambodians at risk.



Cambodia’s 437km coastline faces rising seawater levels and saltwater inundation of coastal areas, resulting in a credible threat to communities and their livelihoods.



Agriculture accounts for 30% of Cambodia’s GDP. As many farmers are engaged in smallholder agriculture, climate change has the potential to have an extensive impact on this sector. Decreased yields affect families’ food security, nutrition, income and overall ability to withstand further shocks and stresses.



With changing temperatures and changing rainfall patterns, the changing climate is causing increases in the distribution and transmission of vector borne diseases such as dengue, chikungunya and malaria, as well as causing other health challenges.

50 million poor and vulnerable people increase their food and nutrition security and their resilience to climate change.

CARE'S APPROACH TO INCREASING CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE GLOBALLY

The three core elements of CARE's global approach to addressing the underlying causes of poverty and social injustice are strengthening **gender equality and women's voice**, promoting **inclusive governance** and increasing **resilience**.

CARE aims to primarily **build resilience to the impacts of climate change** by implementing **community-based adaptation** projects and by integrating climate risks and adaptation into our core development programs, with a focus on improving **food and nutrition security**, **disaster risk reduction**, and **preventing environmental degradation**.



CARE'S FOCUS IN CAMBODIA

In Cambodia, CARE's approach is to work both with **small-scale producers and farmers** and with **local government** in remote rural areas to improve community resilience to climate change.

CARE has a strong focus on **women farmers**, as we believe that the full inclusion of women in development processes is essential in overcoming poverty and vulnerabilities. CARE has extensive experience in engaging with women farmers to **improve yields** and develop **climate-resilient agricultural practices** in their communities. CARE prioritises promoting **women's leadership** as an effective way to develop community-based expertise and increase overall resilience.

CARE also works closely with local government to **support planning processes**, promoting early warning and linking to existing legislation at the national level.

CARE Cambodia measures the effectiveness of climate change resilience programming through a range of global indicators.

RESILIENCE APPROACH	HOW CARE WORKS	SAMPLE INDICATORS
ANTICIPATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve provincial, district, and commune level governance and knowledge on Cambodia's Climate Change Strategic Plan and the National Disaster Management Law. Integrate adaptation into local and sectoral development plans and increase effectiveness of disaster and climate early warning systems. Increase smallholder farmers' access to climate information as well as ability to assess their individual and collective vulnerabilities so they have the information they need to make informed agricultural decisions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # of local governments engaged in disaster risk reduction planning # and % of small holder farmers with access to early warning on climate induced disasters
ABSORB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve the ability of individuals and communities to cope with the external shocks and stresses through financial mechanisms such as community savings and insurance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # and % of women who are active users of savings groups # and % of small holder farmers able to access financial service
ADAPT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve the adaptive capacity of smallholder farmers through improved agrometeorology information, improved agriculture practices and the introduction of new crop varieties, environmental practices, and new technologies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # and % of small holder farmers practicing new or improved agricultural or livestock techniques Percentage of women farmers with control over or ownership of a core set of productive resources, assets, and services
TRANSFORM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve women farmers' leadership skills and knowledge on climate change resilience and support gender mainstreaming in systems and structures at local level including planning processes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # and % of women farmers in community leadership roles # and % of women farmers reporting they are able to equally participate in household decision making # local government planning processes that have incorporated gender considerations