



# DISASTER RESILIENCE THROUGH IMPROVED EDUCATION AND LIVELIHOODS

DRIEL



Save the Children

## THE PROBLEM

In remote Koh Kong province, climate change has disrupted weather patterns, which now swing unpredictably between droughts (up till now relatively rare in this lush province) and torrential rains. Coastal communities are bearing the brunt of these changes. Increasing salinity in estuarine waters is decimating the fish and crab populations which are the mainstay of local livelihoods. With the ever more erratic rainfall, rice production is declining. Increasingly frequent storm surges are causing land salinisation and

families are being forced to abandon low-lying areas. This increases pressure on limited livelihood options, and contributes to environmental damage by encouraging over-fishing, destructive fishing practices, and illegal harvesting of mangrove forests for charcoal production. Furthermore growing migration to the province exacerbates the fragile economic and environmental situation.

## OUR RESPONSE

The DRIEL project aims to increase community resilience by creating opportunities for sustainable livelihoods, increasing the next generation's environmental awareness, and strengthening local authorities' capacity to build environmental protection and disaster preparedness into daily decisions and planning activities.

The DRIEL will support communities, schools to identify and adopt

environmentally friendly and resilient livelihood opportunities. School teachers, school support committees and parents will work together to raise awareness of young people and adults about the environment, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. At commune level, Commune Councils, through their Commune Committees for Disaster management, are assisted to enhance land use and community development planning, conduct vulnerability and capacity assessments and disaster hazard mapping in order to develop a long term disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation plan. These initiatives will help communities to improve their resilience to the impacts of disasters and climate change through more sustainable livelihoods, increased environmental sensitivity and skills of children and adults, and improved planning and preparedness.

## PARTICIPANTS

We are supporting 33 upper primary and lower secondary schools (including 6,750 students, teachers, and parents via School Support Committees), more than



8,400 households (39,000 people) at 46 villages. We also support Commune Council and Commune Committee for Disaster Management of 16 communes.

## **PARTNERS**

The DRIEL project has brought together a committed group of donors and partners to collaborate in this crucial work. The project is funded by the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) through Save the Children New Zealand. The

primary Cambodian partner is the Koh Kong Provincial Office of Education. The Provincial Departments of Environment, Agriculture and Fisheries have supporting roles through the "Technical Working Group on Climate Change", chaired by the Provincial Governor.

GNS Science NZ is contributing vital technical and scientific capacity. It supports the Geographic Information System

department of the Ministry of Environment in the production of technical impact maps for a range of sea-level rise scenarios. The international NGO, People in Need, provides technical services in livelihoods, hazard vulnerability and capacity analysis, and community hazard mapping.

## **TIMEFRAME**

May 2014 to April 2018





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