

September – October 2020

Message from the Chair of the Executive Committee

Dear SUN CSA Cambodia members,

The Executive Committee of the Scaling Up Nutrition Civil Society Alliance in Cambodia is pleased to release the tenth edition of our bi-monthly newsletter for your kind reading. This edition contains updates and reflections on the events of the last two months, as well as updates on coming events. We sincerely hope you will find this newsletter helpful.

We are nearing the end of the year and annual events such as World Breastfeeding Week and National Nutrition Day are firmly on the radar. Our youth leaders have been making excellent progress and we are preparing for the official launch of the NSFSN 2019-2023.

We extend our deep appreciation to the members of the SUN CSA Cambodia for their continued dedication and hard work, and their support to us as your Executive Committee over the past four years. We also extend thanks to other partners, especially the Council for Agricultural and Rural Development (CARD), for their continued collaboration with civil society and commitment to build a better future for every child in Cambodia. We look forward to our continued productivity in the next two months.

Best regards,
Mr. Hou Kroeun

DCD of HKI and Acting Chair of the SUN CSA EC

Youth Activities

As always, the Youth Nutrition Champions have been busy. Throughout the September-October period, under the leadership of CARD, they travelled to Ratanakiri, Kampong Chhnang, Prey Veng, Kampong Cham, Kratie, Stung Treng, Kampong Thom and Siem Reap to conduct Youth Nutrition Forums. This is an excellent achievement, and as the reach of the group grows, more and more youths around the country are engaged and empowered on matters of nutrition.

In early September, the YNCs launched a video contest focused on healthy diets and behaviours. The competition is for Cambodians under 30 years old, and involves submitting a 2-4 minute video. There are up to 150 prizes to be won, and the major prizes include a Kindle, bicycles and smart watches.

The YNCs also took field visits in September to Takeo and Kampot, where they met with model farmers, shared nutrition information with youths, and visited the GIZ

MUSEFO project. During this visit, they also conducted nutrition education on healthy diets to youths and mothers in the community.

In mid-October, YNC Leader, Bormey, moderated a panel discussion in the World Food Day Webinar by Youth Leaders for Nutrition. She was invited to the position by SUN Global.

The hard work of the Youth Nutrition Champions to bring nutrition to the forefront among Cambodia's Youth has been recognized by the government again. In his recommendations for the implementation of the 2nd NSFSN 2019-2023, with the Prime Minister recommended that sub-national Youth Nutrition Champions platforms be established. This is an excellent achievement.



The YNCs visiting farmers in Takeo.

Update on Provincial Working Groups on Food Security and Nutrition

Various meetings and workshops of the PWGFSN in Kampong Chhnang and Ratanakiri took place in September/October, chaired by CARD. As a result, the PWGFSNs developed comprehensive joint workplans. SUN CSA representatives presented detailed activity plans they had collected from CSOs working in each province, including timelines and budget information. Members of the group have been able to improve their understanding of food security and nutrition topics, including the nutrition situation and key indicators in Cambodia. CARD is also working to increase the capacity of Commune Councils to integrate FSN into commune plans.

Strengthening Regulations on Food Labeling

HKI, Alive and Thrive and UNICEF are technically and financially supporting MOC to conduct a second round of testing to investigate the iron and zinc content of all BMS brands in Cambodia. This second test is expected to be conducted in November.

For enquiries or to update your contact details, please contact:

Ms. Alix Coombs | Program Support Specialist | Helen Keller International
085 736 159 | acoombs@hki.org



Under-Secretary of State for Health, HE Prak Sophonneary, making the opening speech at WBW Workshop.

National Events

World Breastfeeding Week was launched on October 9th in Kampong, in partnership with CARD, MOH, MOC, and supported by HKI, WVI, Alive & Thrive, Johanniter International and GIZ. Chaired by Under-Secretary of State for Health, HE Prak Sophonneary, the event was attended by 78 people, 56% of whom were women. As well as development partners and SUN CSA members, attendees included hospitals, PHDs, ODs and provincial government representatives. The main focus of the workshop was planning for how to celebrate WBW in 2020, and many key stakeholders shared their experiences on a number of matters related to breastfeeding promotion, as well as about celebrating WBW in the past. 12 NGOs were distributed kits to host their own WBW events, and celebrations were planned for throughout October, November and December, after which the organisations will share reports back to the SUN CSA to be compiled into one report detailing the Alliance's efforts to celebrate WBW 2020.

CARD has scheduled National Nutrition Day to take place in November 12, in Kampong Cham province. The official theme under which the event will be celebrated this year is 'Strengthen food systems for healthy diets'.

The 2nd National Strategy for Food Security and Nutrition was officially be launched on November 3rd. For the next steps, there will be an orientation planned for line ministries and SUN CSA members to successfully implement the Strategy.

Ms. Chin Sedtha of Alive & Thrive at World Breastfeeding Week.



New SUN CSA Member

We were pleased to welcome Centre d'Etude et de Développement Agricole Cambodgien / Cambodian Center for Study and Development in Agriculture (CEDAC) as a new SUN CSA member in October. CEDAC envisions a Cambodian society where small-scale farmers enjoy good living conditions and maintain strong mutual cooperation, with the rights and power to determine their own destinies and with the capacity to play an important role in supplying healthy food for a whole society.

CEDAC works in Ratanakiri, Mondulkiri and Koh Kong provinces for the following objectives:

- Provide training and education to local communities including indigenous people on nutrition related topics including 'Link Agriculture, Natural Resource, and Nutrition (LANN) approach'.
- Organize and establish Women Nutrition Groups at village level;
- Support farmers to establish nutrition-sensitive home gardens;
- Support water and sanitation for improving household nutrition in rural area.

The organization has also become involved in the multi-stakeholder platform in Ratanakiri. It is also excellent to expand the SUN CSA presence in Koh Kong province.

Welcome, CEDAC and their representatives Sokhorn (Project Coordinator) and Chanteang (ED). You can check out their Facebook page here: <https://www.facebook.com/cedac.org>



A recent village development fund and savings group meeting hosted by CEDAC in Dak Dam commune, Ou Reang district, Mondulkiri.

For enquiries or to update your contact details, please contact:

Ms. Alix Coombs | Program Support Specialist | Helen Keller International
085 736 159 | acoombs@hki.org