

March - April 2021

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 thirteenth 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.

As the February 20 Community Event continues all over Cambodia, I hope you are keeping safe. This latest outbreak has created new challenges for us all in continuing the work we do, however I am pleased to see our members rise to the occasion and continue their work in adapted ways wherever they can. In times of income and livelihood loss and food insecurity, it has never been more important that we continue in our mission. Thank you all for the work you do, despite the difficult circumstances of late.

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) and Ministry of Health 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

Food Systems Dialogues

On March 10, the Youth Nutrition Champions, along with youth representatives (over 30 participants) from SUN CSA members organisations, participated in a Food Systems Dialogue in preparation for the Global Food Systems Summit later in the year. Over 30 participants joined the dialogue. Later that month, on March 30, over 80 SUN CSA Cambodia members participated in a second dialogue. The focus of the discussions was on our vision for a sustainable food system in Cambodia, and how to achieve that vision. Both dialogues had great participation, with very high numbers joining the SUN

CSA dialogue. The notes from the sessions were collated into a template report and submitted to the global platform to build a picture of Cambodia's food systems. These dialogues will continue to take place with various groups of stakeholders, coordinated by CARD and FAO.

COVID-19 Response

Over the last 2 months, the COVID-19 outbreak has worsened across Cambodia and as an Alliance, we have continued to respond. The Executive Committee has been meeting regularly to discuss our response, and our members have continued to work within the restrictions to reach their beneficiaries to the best of their ability. Many have also engaged in emergency supply provisions.

People in Need has been one of the leading organisations of a phone-based rapid assessment across 15 communes in Phnom Penh, many of which were in red zones. This is a great effort by PIN, and very fast action.

The Alliance is also engaged with CARD to support the development of a questionnaire on the impacts of COVID-19 in Kampot and Kampong Thom. With the support of SUN CSA members, the survey will also extend to communes in Kandal, Prey Veng and Siem Reap. The survey will see commune councils periodically fill in a survey over the course of 6-months.

The SUN CSA Cambodia has been conducting online quizzes recently. More than 1500 participants took part in the quiz, and prizes are ready to be collected as soon as restrictions ease. This is a great way to engage the public in messages of healthy lifestyles and nutritious diets in this difficult period.



Fighting COVID-19 TOGETHER

EVERYONE must keep vigilant all the times because of COVID-19, which can infect anyone.

Protect yourself and your community by:

3 do's

- wear a mask
- wash hands frequently with alcohol or gel or soap
- maintain a physical distance of at least 1.5 meters

3 don'ts

- go to crowded places
- go to enclosed places without ventilation
- touch each other, shake hands or hug

The Ministry of Health's 3 do's and don'ts to fight COVID-19.

Update of Guiding Documents

Over the past few months, the Secretariat and Executive Committee have been working to create/update key guiding documents for the SUN CSA Cambodia. This includes the Annual Workplan, Strategic Plan, Communications Strategy, Advocacy Strategy, and SUN CSA Brochure.

The Annual Workplan was finalised earlier in the year, and will serve to guide our work throughout 2021. The Strategic Plan was recently shared with you all, and we are currently updating it according to the feedback received. The Communications Strategy has been reviewed by HKI's Communications Coordinator and is being updated to reflect his feedback, and the Strategic Plan. The Advocacy Strategy is in the final design phase and will be shared with all members this month, and the SUN CSA Brochure is being reviewed for updates now.

As these updated documents become available, they will be shared with you all. Sharing your feedback is a very important part of the process, so many thanks for your continued input.

Learning Event

On Thursday, 25 March, we hosted the first online Learning Exchange for the SUN CSA Cambodia. These exchanges will be hosted every 3 months with a different focus topic, and presentations from member organisations who implement programming in the topic area.

For Q1, the topic was 'WASH'. This saw Plan International, RainWater Cambodia, and World Vision Cambodia share presentations on their programming related to WASH. There were many participants, and the presentations were excellent. The presenters stimulated interesting discussion, and brought forward new materials that could be useful for a number of members. Many thanks to Plan, RainWater and World Vision for being our first presenters!

Hopefully this was an engaging format for you all, and please feel free to share any suggestions on how to conduct these sessions, or topics you would like to hear about for the next exchange.

Policy Updates

SUN CSA Cambodia members, including Helen Keller Intl. and Alive and Thrive, have been actively supporting the National Nutrition Program (NNP) to update Cambodia's National Nutrition Training Curriculum- Minimum Package of Activities Module 10 (MPA10) Facilitator Manual. The update began in 2020, and throughout March and April several meetings have taken place with a number of stakeholders to discuss and finalise the trainer manual and job aids, including an implementation plan.

The Maternal, Infant and Young Child Nutrition SBCC Strategy IPC materials are about to undergo the second round of testing, with coordination from NNP. Several consultations have taken place between the NNP and other involved stakeholders to develop the IPC prototypes, and adapt them following the first round of testing.

Support for Breastfeeding in the Workplace

In early March, a police officer in Stung Treng faced disciplinary action from her employer for breastfeeding her baby at work and posting a photo of herself breastfeeding on her personal Facebook account. SUN CSA Cambodia firmly disagreed with this action, and congratulated Ms. Sithong on her breastfeeding practices and excellent work as a role model who is publicly promoting breastfeeding in the workplace to other women. Mr. Hou Kroeun gave several media interviews stressing the importance of allowing breastfeeding to take place in the workplace, in adherence with Cambodia's Labour Law.



Some of the participants of the SUN CSA Food Systems Dialogue.