

Urban Poor Women Development (UPWD) was established in 1997 (and formally registered in 1998) as a local non-governmental, non-profit and non-political organization, working with urban women groups to develop their capacity, empower them to address their issues, and to secure their rights and livelihoods. Overtime, UPWD helped to establish a local structure called the People Organization for Community Development (POCD) and developed their capacity to take ownership in addressing communities' problems in a sustainable manner.

Identity

UPWD is a community development organization that has expertise in actively empowering and creatively responding to the needs, for support, of the women, children, youth, and vulnerable communities in urban/slum areas.

Vision

UPWD wants to see the members of communities (especially the women, children, youth, and vulnerable people) in urban/slum areas live with dignity and favorable livelihoods within Cambodian society.

Mission

UPWD exists to facilitate the processes to organize communities, strengthen the capacity of the POCD and local authorities, and support the communities' initiatives to promote land rights and livelihoods of community members in urban/slum areas.

Goal

UPWD's goal is for communities to have the capacity to mobilize resources and participation from relevant stakeholders to respond to issues and needs of women, children, youth and vulnerable people in urban/slum areas.

Values

UPWD believes in:

- Gender equality
- Cooperation and partnership
- Teamwork
- Transparency and accountability
- Continuous learning



Currently, UPWD is implementing the following projects:

Project 1: Community Empowerment

- Summary of Achievements to Date
 - Established and continue to support local structure (POCD) who take ownership to address community problems sustainably, organize community meetings, and select focal persons
 - All 7 POCD core members have developed confidence to lead activities; 65% of community leaders facilitated community campaigns and advocated for local authorities to improve public services
 - 502 development projects raised and 245 were responded to or solved by Sangkat authorities, NGOs, communities themselves
- Future Focal Points
 - Strengthen POCD institutional capacity to become permanent, independent, local structure working flexibly with local authorities, NGOs, development partners
 - Improve capacity of communities and local authorities



Project 2: Community Land and Housing Rights

- Summary of Achievements to Date
 - Supported community leaders to prepare documents for land registration and access legal aid when facing difficulties
 - 30 target communities have submitted documents to register land, of which 9 have received land titles and 21 are revising documents and negotiating with authorities
 - POCD and leaders in 17 communities accessed lawyers and NGOs to strategize and held forums, used social media to share critical developments
 - POCD members connected with land working groups to exchange information on development of policies, rights and document preparation
- Future Focal Points
 - Be proactive in responding to land/housing issues of urban/slum communities
 - Apply holistic strategies to advocate for the land/housing titles, living conditions and resilience to climate change of urban/slum communities

Project 3: Community Livelihood Enhancement

- Summary of Achievements to Date
 - Identified stable livelihoods meant more engagement in social development activities and therefore mobilized resources to implement development programs improving living conditions
 - Provided capacity-building programs such as vocational training courses (cooking, sewing, motorbike repairs, beauty) and awareness-raising campaigns on business management/basic health and sanitation/environment
 - Provided access to self-help group funds and private microfinance institutions to expand business capital
- Future Focal Points
 - Formulate and pilot comprehensive and specific community business models
 - Strengthen breastfeeding and nutrient food practices
 - Implement solutions to improve community environment processes, notably sustainability, health and adaption to disaster and climate change

Gender

We aim to empower women in all aspects of our work and encourage men to share housework within families. Our goals are to promote women's roles within families and communities and ensure gender balance in awareness-raising/capacity-building programs on gender and gender-based violence, including the increase of male participants.

Organizational Development

We know that strengthening organizational capacity will lead to achieving our maximum impact, which includes both competent staff and financial support. As part of our long-term strategy for 2023-2027, we will update organization policy and guidelines, develop monitoring and evaluation framework, resource mobilization and fundraising strategy, and strengthen the function of the Board of Directors.

Contact Information

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