

**Titel:**

## **Empowering Democratic Rural Organisations and livelihood of rural poor post COVID-19 Cambodia (EDRO)**



**CISU-funds:** 4,5 mio. kr.

**Project periode:** 1.1.2023 – 31.12.2025

**Cooperative partners:**

Community-based Integrated Development Organization (**CIDO**),

Rural Economic and Agriculture Development Agency-(**READA**),

Rural Community and Environment Development Organization (**RCEDO**),

Cambodia Agricultural Cooperative Unions (**CACU**),

**Project coordinator:** Kjeld Vodder Nielsen; Projekt manager i Cambodia  
Sinang Yun

**ADDA Country responsible:** Bodil E. Pallesen, ADDA

### **Resume:**

The aim is to empower Agricultural Cooperative (AC) development in Cambodia post-COVID-19. The pandemic nullified tourism; created market imbalances; unemployment; rising costs, record debt and increased poverty. Activities are designed to: Make Markets Work for the Poor; Expand cooperatives scale of operation; Advance organizational capacity & accountability; Increase capital & commercial sustainability of cooperatives, incl. their aggregations and; Upgrade dialog & influence on rural development issues at provincial & national levels in the context of severe challenges post COVID-19. Enhanced advocacy and representation of rural poor at local, provincial and at national level is based on interventions of their own Democratic Rural Organizations, local NGO partners, and through an intensified strategic cooperation with the Cambodian AC Alliance representing all cooperatives in Cambodia. Next level AC services are delivered to 11.000 members to improve livelihood of beneficiaries.

### **Overall goal**

Overall Development Objective: Poor people in rural areas of Siem Reap (SR) and Oddar Meanchey (OMC) have improved livelihood post COVID-19 - in terms of increased of agricultural production and income - facilitated by their Democratic Rural Organizations (DRO).

### **Immediate goals:**

**Objective 1.:** December 2025; the two Agricultural Cooperative Unions in SR and OMC have built capacity to scale up and advance (1) Marketing and sale of AC production, (2) Linkage to advantageous farm input supply, (3) AC credit craftsmanship, bookkeeping and accounting, (4) Sound and cost-efficient credit lines, incl. restructuring of weak ACs and (5) Sustainability of their AC members post COVID-19.

**Objective 2:** December 2025; 50 out of 60 ACs have improved livelihood of their farmer members by (i) expanding advantageous market linkages for the rural population (selling and buying), (ii) facilitating/offering special support schemes for vulnerable rural poor post COVID-19 and/or (iii) expanding sound microcredit facilitation post COVID-19.

**Objective 3:** December 2025; the Cambodian Agricultural Cooperative Alliance (CACA), 2 Provincial Agricultural Cooperative Unions; 50 ACs and LNGOs are updated on agricultural and rural development policy issues and they influence local and national decision making on rural development post COVID-19.

**Target groups**

The project's target group (Right-holders) is primarily poor rural residents - especially women. The target group consists of existing - as well as new - members of 60 agricultural cooperatives and self-help groups. The PROJECT targets CACAs, PACUs, ACs, SHGs (indirectly) and new ACs and their members in both Siem Reap and Oddar Meanchey provinces.