

Yan is Srer Khmer's programme officer. She has worked with Srer Khmer for over 10 years. Yan enjoys her work, explaining:



"I feel very excited about the changes we see because the work really does have an extraordinary impact. It's a great feeling seeing communities change and exceed my expectations even after we finish a project".



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Shared values

Speaking of this new partnership between CAFOD and Srer Khmer, Yan explains that it was the shared values of CAFOD and Srer Khmer that initially led the two organisations to begin conversation:

"Srer Khmer's values are similar to CAFOD's, we too work with the poorest communities."

Like CAFOD, everyone working at Srer Khmer are committed to open communication, teamwork, respect and the empowerment of others. Furthermore, Srer Khmer and CAFOD both believe that stewardship is key to this work. For this reason, Srer Khmer continually monitor their projects, inviting community members to take an active part in this work, and feedback at regular intervals.

Challenges faced by rural farmers:

Access to food

Flooding and droughts are common in Cambodia, which makes it difficult for farmers to grow and harvest crops. Farmers who are able to grow rice often only have enough to feed their families.

Access to markets

Farmers who are able to grow enough rice to feed their families, and have enough left over to sell, struggle to access markets. They either have no way to get their crops to the market, lack knowledge of how to manage their crops after harvesting and have no experience of managing a small business.

Vulnerability to natural disasters

When a natural disaster strikes, rural farmers are vulnerable to this as they are not trained in how to respond or lack the resources to respond to this.

Gender inequality

Women in Cambodia experience inequality on a range of different things, from receiving less pay to having lower levels of education and poorer health than men.

Lack of employment opportunities

Rice farmers will seek alternative employment to support their families, but this can be infrequent or difficult to find and so is low paid and unreliable.