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Gender, Climate Change and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

SESSION B: A CASE STUDY

CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION FOR COMMUNITY PONDS IN
CAMBODIA

Steps in successful project design



**Participatory
vulnerability
assessments**

Activity design

**Stakeholder
buy-in**

**Successful
implementation**



Map credits: USIAD ADAPT Asia-Pacific

Step 1. Participatory vulnerability mapping

Water supply is from the ponds during the dry season; supplemented with rainwater harvesting jars during the wet season.



Photo credit: USIAD Adapt Asia-Pacific

The vulnerability and adaptation assessment was conducted in the villages to determine the likely impacts of climate change on the ability of the community ponds to deliver a reliable potable water supply to the villages throughout the projected conditions for dry and wet season.

Step 1: Participatory vulnerability mapping with women

Findings of the participatory vulnerability assessment with women:

- **Women are responsible for water collection and pond cleanliness.**
- **General satisfaction with the pond location.**
- **Extreme climatic events cause health problems.**
- **Women suffer more than men, as they are responsible for caring for kin**

Step 1: Participatory vulnerability mapping with women

Specific women's needs thus identified included:

- Better access to the pond and to the water edge
- Participation in decision making related to the pond design, implementation and maintenance
- Strengthen role and the position of women in Water User groups
- Better manage health problems resulting from the extreme climatic events



Photo credit: USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific

Step 2: Activity Design

Increasing severity of both dry periods and wet events

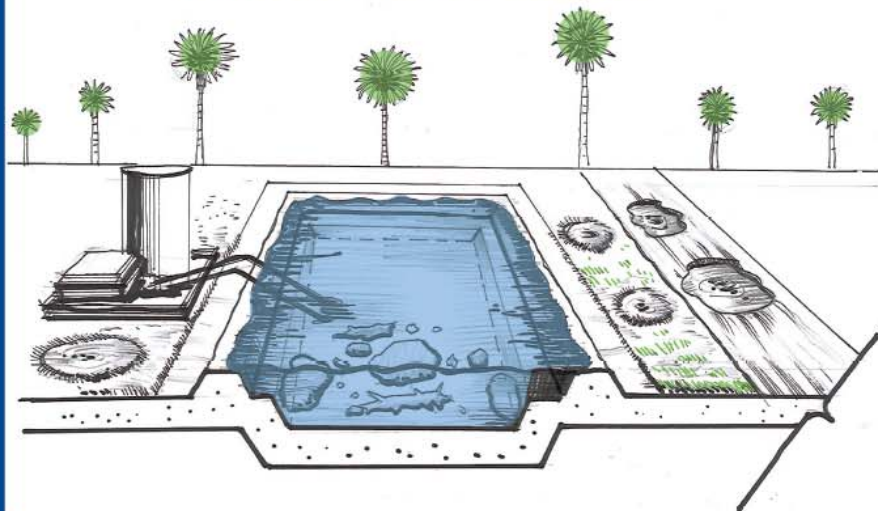
Women are responsible for collecting water and for maintaining pond cleanliness

- a) improved access to ponds in both dry and wet ('hard' solution); and
- b) improved participation in decision making ('soft' solution)

Step 2: Design - Proposed Hard Solutions

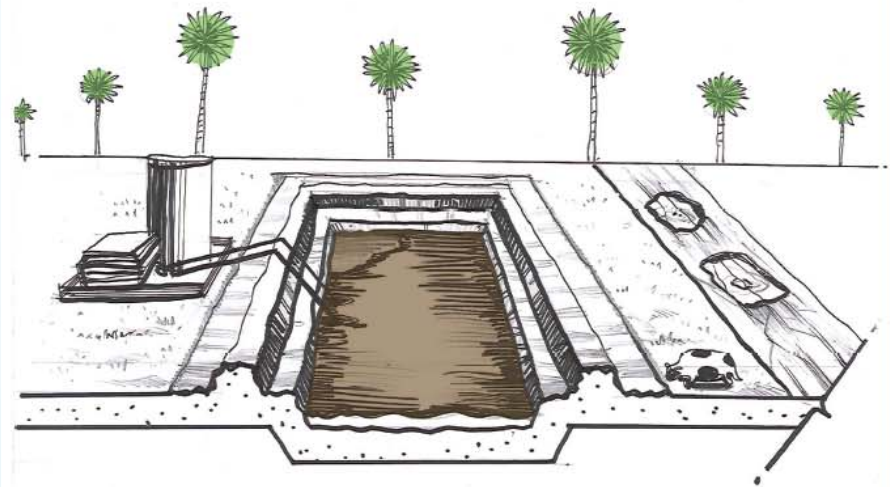
HOW WILL CLIMATE CHANGE AFFECT THE PONDS...

...in the wet season?



- Flooding
- Turbid pond water
- Eroding banks and dikes
- Eroding footpath
- Debris and runoff deposits in the pond
- Gullies and rills in the road
- Higher temperatures

...in the dry season?

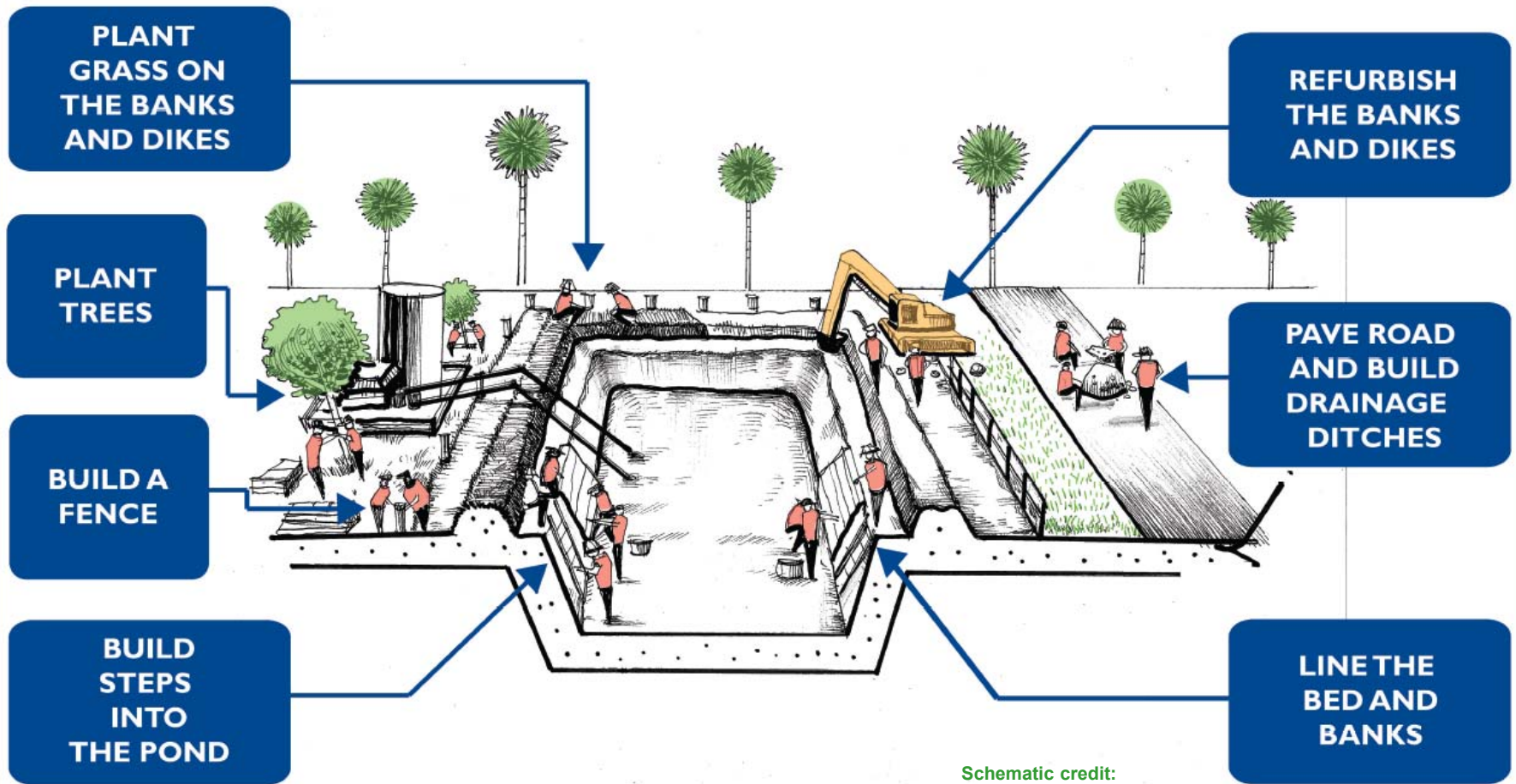


- Algae in the pond
- Sediment deposits in the pond and turbid water
- Eroding footpath
- Gullies and rills in the road
- Eroding banks and dikes
- Low water availability
- Higher evaporation

Schematic credit:
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Step 2: Design - Proposed Hard Solutions

HOW CAN THESE PROBLEMS BE AVOIDED?



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Step 2: Design - Proposed Soft Solutions

ACTIVITY	ROLE OF WOMEN	ROLE OF MEN
Maintenance decisions regarding what activities are necessary to ensure continued access to ponds and the quality of the water are the responsibility of the WUG	Women will be responsible for reporting to the group regarding problems in pond access and water quality issues	Men will work with women to identify maintenance options to solve the problems
Initial construction of the pond and pond access structures, such as stairs to reach the pond banks and markers to indicate the path to the pond from the main road	Women will have a supporting role in initial construction. By being involved they will learn how the work is done in case there is ever a need to make repairs.	Men will be responsible for the identifying the resources needed and for the handiwork involved in the initial construction of pond structures.
Training on pond maintenance provided to the communities by the MRD	Women (particularly those who stay in the communities year round) will be the primary recipients of maintenance training	Men will be involved in the trainings both to learn technical skills and to share knowledge with other participants
Year-round pond maintenance to keep the ponds in working order, particularly in times of flood	Women will be responsible for small scale every-day maintenance of the ponds, such as keeping the water intake pipes and filtration system clear of debris, maintaining pond access structures like stairs, and footpaths, maintaining pond bank stabilization, etc.	Men will be responsible for larger scale maintenance, particularly large repairs that may be necessary just before and just after the rainy season

Involvement in Pond Construction



Photo credits:
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Step 3. Community consultations



Photo credit: USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific

Buy-in from

- Beneficiaries:
- Funding bodies:
- Implementers:

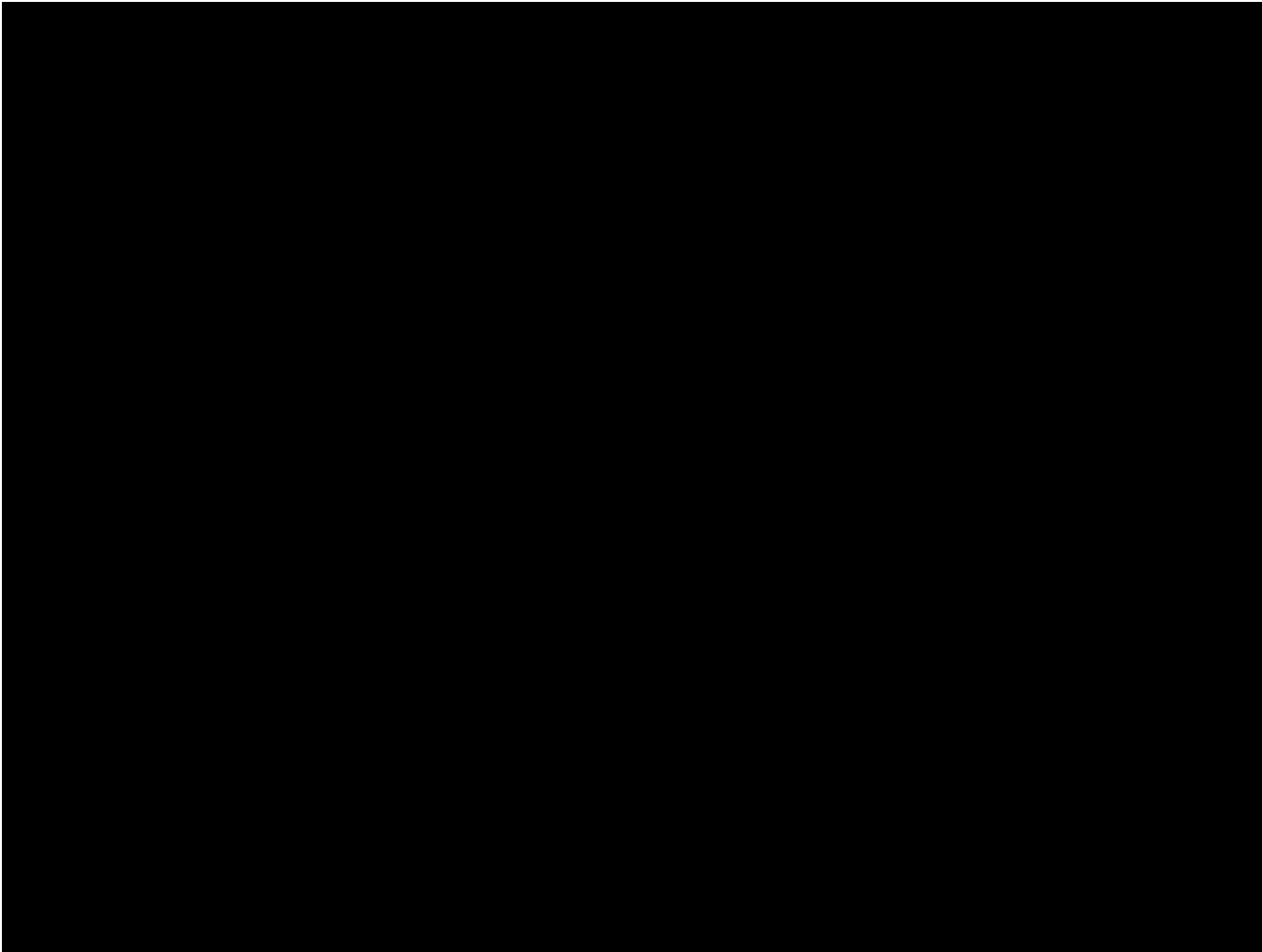
Community members, both men and women;
Government and donor agencies;
NGOs and Ministries

Step 4. Important Elements of Project Design Required for Successful Implementation

- **Specific budgets available for all gender activities, gender training and meetings in the communities;**
- **Project gender consultant was employed;**
- **Budget was also provided for gender training of government officials;**
- **Requirement that NGOs selected for implementation of the activities has to have demonstrated good track record working with gender issues was introduced;**
- **Indicators: clear distinction between indicators of engagement and indicators of change.**

Organising WASH activities from national to local level

Where men sit, where women sit....





PLENARY DISCUSSION

Your Experiences