

Workshop on Capacity Strengthening for Civil Society Organisations: Understanding and Addressing Heat Stress

Date: 27th October 2026

Venue: TBC

Background

Heat stress is an increasingly serious issue in Cambodia, particularly as climate change drives higher temperatures and more frequent heatwaves. Workers in outdoor and heat-exposed sectors such as construction and garment manufacturing are especially vulnerable to the health and productivity impacts of extreme heat. Prolonged exposure can result in dehydration, heat exhaustion, heat stroke, and other serious health complications, with disproportionate effects on women and other marginalised workers.

This issue is not only a public health concern, but also a labour rights, gender equality, and economic productivity issue. In the garment sector, where women make up the majority of the workforce, heat stress can be compounded by gendered responsibilities, including unpaid care work, limited access to rest and recovery, and unequal workplace conditions. These realities make it essential to approach heat stress through a gender-responsive and worker-centred lens.

At the same time, current workplace protections and enforcement mechanisms remain insufficient, particularly in informal or lightly regulated sectors. Many workers and employers still lack adequate awareness of the risks associated with heat stress, as well as practical strategies to prevent and manage them. This creates an urgent need for coordinated action involving civil society, worker networks, industry actors, and policymakers.

The Women Empowerment Network is a platform that brings together relevant stakeholders to promote women's empowerment, gender equality, women's leadership and inclusive economic opportunities. The network facilitates knowledge-sharing, networking and collaboration among its members and partners.

In this context, the **Women Empowerment (WE) Network** under **GIZ FABRIC**, in collaboration with the **Cooperation Committee for Cambodia (CCC)**, will organise a capacity-strengthening workshop for CCC member organisations on heat stress and climate change. The workshop aims to strengthen the capacity of civil society organisations to understand heat-stress risks, communicate key messages, support affected workers and contribute to awareness raising, advocacy and coordinated action.

Objective

The workshop aims to:

1. Strengthen the capacity of CCC member organisations and other participating CSOs to understand heat stress, its impacts and its links to climate change, occupational safety and health, labour rights and gender equality.
2. Raise awareness among CSOs and promote knowledge-sharing on practical measures to prevent and address heat stress, particularly among workers in heat-exposed sectors and vulnerable groups.
3. Strengthening collaboration between the WE Network and CCC by identifying opportunities for joint advocacy, coordinated action and continued engagement to promote safer, gender-responsive and climate-resilient workplaces.



Implemented by
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Expected Outcomes

- CCC member organisations and participating CSOs demonstrate improved understanding of heat stress, its health and workplace impacts, and its relevance to climate resilience, workers' rights and gender equality, enabling them to undertake awareness raising, support workers and promote practical prevention measures.
- Collaboration among the WE Network, CCC and CCC member organisations is strengthened, creating a stronger basis for knowledge-sharing, joint advocacy and future coordinated initiatives on heat stress.

Participants: approximately 70 participants

Draft Agenda

Time	Program	Responsible
08:00 – 08:30	Registration	CCC & GIZ Cambodia
08:30 – 08:35	Agenda Overview, objectives, and National Anthem	Ms. Solida Chan, CCC
08:30 – 08:40	Welcome remarks	Mr. Vibol Chea, CCC
08:40 – 08:50	Opening remarks	GIZ Cambodia
08:50 – 09:00	Expectations & Icebreaker Poll & Baseline Assessment	Ms. Solida Chan, CCC
09:00 – 09:30	Presentation: Climate change – Rising temperatures, causes, and consequences	Mr. Putthy San, GIZ Cambodia
09:30 – 10:00	Presentation: Background of Heat stress – Heat stress vs. heat strain, impact of heat stress, heat stress mitigation	Dr. Vabotra Chea, GIZ Cambodia
10:00 – 10:30	Coffee break	
10:30 – 11:00	Interactive Discussion: Experiences and challenges from the field	Dr. Vabotra Chea, GIZ Cambodia Dr. Latin Heang, ITC
11:00 – 11:30	Presentation: Heat stress in Cambodia's construction sector	Dr. Latin Heang, ITC
11:30 – 13:00	Lunch break	
13:00 – 13:15	Icebreaker	Ms. Solida Chan, CCC
13:15 – 13:45	Presentation: Heat stress in Cambodia's garment, footwear and travel goods (GFT) sector, and Sustainability Recommendation Paper (SRP) on mitigating heat stress in the GFT sector	Dr. Vabotra Chea, GIZ Cambodia
13:45 – 14:45	Government's initiatives to address heat stress Q&A	Mr. Bunrath Khvat, MLVT
14:45 – 15:00	Connect with the WE Network	Ms. Sinal Hean, GIZ Cambodia
15:00 – 15:15	Coffee break	
15:15 – 16:15	Group Discussion: CSOs' roles in addressing heat stress (prevention, support & advocacy)	○ Ms. Keo Kongkea Prak, CCC ○ Mr. Veasna Ny, CCC ○ Ms. Sinal Hean, GIZ Cambodia ○ Mr. Putthy San, GIZ Cambodia
16:15 – 16:30	Call to Action: Commitments, next steps & follow-up pathways (current & future initiatives)	Ms. Sinal Hean, GIZ Cambodia
16:30 – 16:45	Closing & evaluation forms	Ms. Solida Chan, CCC

Reserve rights for alternative changes

Presenters/moderators:

- Ms. Solida Chan, Project Officer, CCC
- Mr. Vibol Chea, Head of Communication & Membership Development, CCC
- Ms. Keo Kongkea Prak, Policy, Legal and Advocacy Specialist, CCC
- Mr. Veasna Ny, Policy, Legal and Advocacy Specialist, CCC
- Mr. Putthy San, Climate Change Advisor, GIZ Cambodia
- Dr. Vabotra Chea, Environmental Policy Advisor (Energy and Heat Stress), GIZ Cambodia
- Dr. Latin Heang, Lecturer-Researcher, Institute of Technology of Cambodia (ITC)
- Mr. Bunrath Khvat, Vice Chief of the Bureau of the Department of Occupational Safety and Health, Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training (MLVT)