**Supporting Sustainable Supply Chains in the Domestic Energy Sector**

Supporting the emergence and empowerment of two local business associations engaged in the production and distribution of sustainable energy solutions.

Since 2003, GERES has supported the dissemination of more than 3.5 million improved cookstoves in Cambodia.

**Issues and Challenges**

In Cambodia, biomass-energy represents 70% of the energy mix and woodfuels (wood, charcoal and sawdust) account for more than 90% of the biomass-energy final demand. Domestic cooking itself generates a demand of 4.7 million tons of primary wood per year, which represents three times the energy demand of the transportation sector. Meanwhile, the increasing scarcity of wood resources and the illegality of wood collection in Protected Areas will soon translate into an increase in wood and charcoal prices, and will directly threaten Cambodia’s remaining wood heritage and resilience to climate change. In order to tackle these environmental and socioeconomic challenges, GERES has been supporting for twenty years the Royal Government of Cambodia and the private sector in the development of sustainable wood-energy value chains. This translates into the dissemination of energy-efficient cooking devices, along with the development of alternative and sustainable fuels made from biomass residues to replace the traditional charcoal.

**Objectives and Solutions**

This project aims to create the conditions for the emergence of two local inter-professional associations engaged in the production and distribution of sustainable energy solutions: Improved Cookstoves (ICS) and sustainable biomass fuels. The objectives are to ensure the continued development of these local organizations by working on their governance and economic model; to support the emergence of sustainable wood-energy supply chains by encouraging market demand; and to contribute to the development of an attractive regulatory framework to stimulate public and private investments in the biomass-energy and forestry sectors.

The Improved Cookstoves Producers and Distributors Association of Cambodia (ICoProDAC), created by GERES in 2004, is now the main entity driving the Cambodian ICS market. However, it still needs technical assistance to reach its total autonomy and long-term sustainability.

Likewise, since 2008, GERES has been working on the creation of alternative biomass fuels supply chains in order to displace at least part of the traditional charcoal which is a direct driver of forest degradation. In order to better structure this nascent sector, SEFED supports the creation of a business intermediary that would represent and defend the common interests of its actors.
PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES 2016 - 2019

1. Building the capacity of 2 inter-professional associations engaged in the distribution of sustainable energy solutions, by working on their governance, business model, and their capacity to mobilize adequate resources.

2. Supporting market demand for energy solutions that are ecologically sustainable and socially responsible by raising consumers’ awareness and promoting the proposed solutions.

3. Contributing to the development of attractive regulatory and tax frameworks to stimulate public and private investment in the biomass-energy and forest conservation sectors.

EXPECTED RESULTS AND IMPACTS

Socioeconomic impact
- Local micro entrepreneurs are directly involved in the governance of the 2 associations and benefit from quality services which contribute to increase their productivity and develop their activity.
- Cambodian households have access to energy solutions that are ecologically sustainable and socially responsible.

Institutional impact
- The two business associations gain visibility and leverage at institutional level.
- Capacity building is provided to the institutional partners (NCSD, MME, interministerial working groups).
- An enabling and attractive regulatory framework stimulates public and private investments in the wood-energy sector.
- Private investors and development partners benefit from knowledge and lessons learned collected during the project and are able to launch evidence-based initiatives in the wood-energy sector.

Gender impact
- Women entrepreneurs are encouraged to take responsibilities within the two business associations to better defend their specific interests.
- Women end-users benefit from improved cooking solutions, which reduce the time and money they spend on cooking.

Environment and climate impact
- The project directly contributes to reduce GHG emissions from forest degradation driven by domestic woodfuels consumption.

ICoProDAC, an association that structures the ICS market
ICoProDAC is the first and largest business association of its kind in Cambodia and in the world. It gathers more than 300 members, from ICS producers to distributors, among which 50% are women.
In 2014, the association celebrated its 10-year anniversary.

GET INVOLVED!
We are looking for additional financial partners to support the different activities of the project. Please visit our website www.geres.eu to learn more about our projects.

WEB LINKS
Cambodia Capability Statement - Outcomes Magazine 2014

FINANCIAL PARTNERS
- AFD - French Agency for Development.

TECHNICAL PARTNERS
- CIRD - Cambodian Institute for Research and Rural Development.
- NCSD - National Council for Sustainable Development.
- Technical Working Group on Wood and Biomass Energy.
- ICoProDAC - Improved Cookstove Producers and Distributors Association of Cambodia.
- AFAC - Alternative Fuels Association of Cambodia.

CONTACTS
GERES HQ
CHRISTEL OLIME
c.olime@geres.eu
GERES CAMBODIA
CLAUDE GAY
c.gay@geres.eu