



Applying an Inclusive Governance Approach to Clean Cooking

Since 2020, SNV in Cambodia, with support from Energizing Development, has been implementing its Smoke Free Village (SFV) approach to promote a transition from traditional firewood cookstoves to clean cookstoves.

Drawing lessons from our sanitation programmes, the key activities of this approach include behaviour change communication (BCC) efforts at village and district levels, along with a **vertical and horizontal governance approach**. This inclusive governance model connects all levels of society (vertical) and integrates actors within each level (horizontal). The combination of these components within a single programme has led to significant insights, as detailed in the key lessons section below.

Work at all levels (Vertical Governance)

While many organisations focus their efforts at the global and national levels, SNV has learned that this is only one aspect of the influence needed to achieve systemic

change. Sustainable long-term behaviour change requires both bottom-up and top-down influencing efforts. That is why SNV works at the grassroots (micro) level, directly engaging with communities in villages and communes, at the district and provincial (meso) levels, and at the national and global (macro) levels. In Cambodia, regarding clean cooking, we collaborate closely with the Ministry of Mines and Energy to support the implementation of their energy policy. Simultaneously, we work with village and commune actors to enable them to roll out BCC activities that encourage the adoption of clean cooking practices.

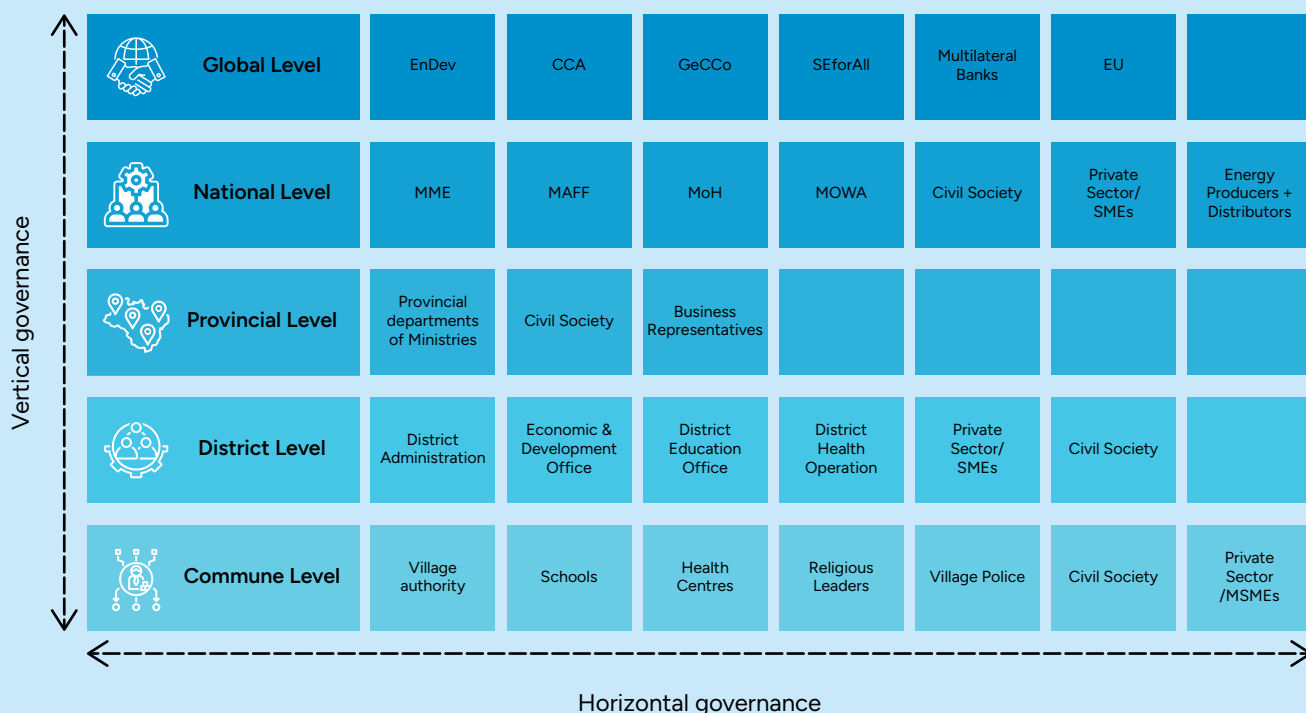
Engage a variety of stakeholders (Horizontal Governance)

Working with a wide range of stakeholders at each level of governance is equally important, which we refer to as horizontal governance. An essential component of our SFV approach is the establishment of a multi-stakeholder platform called the Commune Council Energy Working Group (CCEWG). This group works to encourage the adoption of clean cooking practices and includes a broad spectrum of community representatives: commune councils, monks, clean cooking appliance suppliers, health centre representatives, school representatives, and commune police officers. Through the efforts of the CCEWG, village households learn about clean cooking from a range of actors – at home, at school, at health clinics, and more.

Key lessons

- Leverage and adapt to existing stakeholder priorities
- Influence at all levels of governance
- Engage a variety of stakeholders at each level
- Identify changemakers and ensure they take ownership of the process
- Build on existing knowledge and relationships
- Stimulate exchange and celebrate success

From 2020-2023, the SFV approach resulted in 50,000 households purchasing 15,000 electric cookstoves and 32,000 LPG cookstoves, and 12,000 firewood cookstoves were removed from household kitchens.



Note: EU (European Union), CCA (Clean Cooking Alliance), GeCCo (Global Electric Cooking Coalition), SEforAll (Sustainable Energy for All), MME (Ministry of Mines and Energy), MAFF (Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries), MoH (Ministry of Health), SMEs (Small and Medium Sized Enterprises), MOWA (Ministry of Women's Affairs), MSMEs (Micro- Small- Medium- Enterprises)

Take a locally-led approach and build ownership through changemakers

For community change to last, its success and sustainability needs to be owned by the community itself – rather than being solely promoted by temporary external actors. SNV identified changemakers – actors who are motivated to solve an issue that affects their community – at various levels and supported them in taking tangible steps towards the envisioned change. By placing sub-national governments (at village, commune, and district level) in the lead role for carrying out Smoke Free Village activities, SNV helps ensure these authorities become effective enablers of change in cooking behaviours while overseeing delivery and monitoring results.

Contact us:

SNV in Cambodia
#120 Street 51 (corner 228), 5th Floor
Phum 4, Sangkat Chaktomuk, Khan Daun Penh
Phnom Penh

+855 17 644 882
cambodia@snv.org
snv.org



Stimulate exchange and celebrate success

Encouraging exchanges between neighbouring authorities at different sub-national levels is a key part of SNV's inclusive governance approach. Peer meetings facilitate open discussions on the successes, challenges, and overall progress each authority has made towards SFV, promoting both learning and a sense of competition as they compare performance. Public recognition of achievements, such as organising village-wide celebrations and displaying celebratory placards, further motivates villages to reach their targets.



Community members gather for a BCC meeting in Banteay Meas District, Kampot City, as part of the Smoke Free Village Project to discuss sustainable practices and promote clean cooking initiatives.