**Cambodia’s renewable energy plan endorsed by Climate Investment Funds**

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Cambodia and the Climate Investments Funds are today celebrating the endorsement of the country’s investment plan under the CIF’s Scaling Up Renewable Energy in Low-Income Countries Program (SREP).

SREP funding of $30 million (USD) – leveraging another $135 million USD from other sources - will focus on a solar energy development program, covering approximately 70% of total investment, which includes solar home systems, minigrids, rooftop solar systems and utility-scale solar farms. The funding will also go towards a biomass power project as well as policy support and public awareness.

At present, about 55% of the country’s household population has access to electricity; one of the lowest rates in Southeast Asia. The Cambodian government, through its Rural Electrification Program, targets full electrification of villages by 2020.

Victor Jona, Director General of the Ministry of Mines and Energy of the Cambodian government said: “SREP support will contribute to our plan to increase access to electricity for people living in rural areas. SREP, multilateral development bank and private sector funding will accelerate this expansion.

“We hope that by 2020 we can achieve our target of 100% access to electricity and increase the amount of green energy in the system.”

Senior SREP Coordinator Zhihong Zhang said: “This funding helps Cambodia in delivering their electrification ambitions. Successful projects developed using SREP funds will demonstrate the potential for scaling up projects - and attract other investors to the market.

“Nearly half a million people, the majority of them women, will benefit from improved access to electricity and fuels as a result of these interventions.”

**About the Climate Investment Funds and the Scaling Up Renewable Erngy i Program**

* The Climate Investment Funds (CIF) is providing 72 developing and middle income countries with urgently needed resources to mitigate and manage the challenges of climate change and reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. The CIF allocates financing through four funding windows:
* The $798 million [Scaling Up Renewable Energy in Low Income Countries Program (SREP)](https://www.climateinvestmentfunds.org/cif/srep) is helping to deploy renewable energy solutions for increased energy access and economic growth in the world’s poorest countries.

About Zhihong Zhang

Zhihong Zhang is Senior Program Coordinator at the Climate Investment Funds Administrative Unit, overseeing the Clean Technology Fund and the Program for Scaling up Renewable Energy in Low Income Countries.