

“Don’t give up and be strong!!”

SIN SOCHEA, 40 YEARS OLD LIVING WITH A
DISABILITY, SIEM REAP, CAMBODIA



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY! #CHOOSETOCHALLENGE

WRITTEN BY KHIM & CLAIRE

PHOTOGRAPHY: SOPHEAR

“Women with Disabilities in leadership : Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world”

Happy International Women’s Day! This year we **#choosetochallenge** stereotypes and recognise women and girls with disabilities around the world for their incredible leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Happy International Women's Day! This year we **#choosetochallenge** stereotypes and recognise women and girls with disabilities around the world for their incredible leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Agile met Sin Sochea, a 40 years old tailor living in Siem Reap when she took part in our Bodhi Tree business incubator. Sochea uses a wheelchair and has severe difficulty walking stemming from childhood polio.

Sochea has been severely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, she has seen less and less clients, schools are closed and weddings and celebrations have been postponed. Despite multiple barriers, she has just opened a tailor shop at her home. There are many difficulties ahead, she lacks a steady income, access to materials and her sewing speed is limited as she cannot use her legs to press the sewing machine motor.

Nevertheless, she persists and continues to support other women with disabilities. She is currently training 2 women to become tailors, both have lost their income due to the impact of COVID-19, they both now plan to start their own tailoring business.

Sochea is the leader we need to recognise and promote, despite lacking support from her community and the ongoing impact of the pandemic, she continues to enable the women around her.

“Don't give up and be strong! Even though we were born with a disability, we can do it. We will do the best we can by our ability even if we cannot achieve much. We have to be brave for the future!” - Sochea

