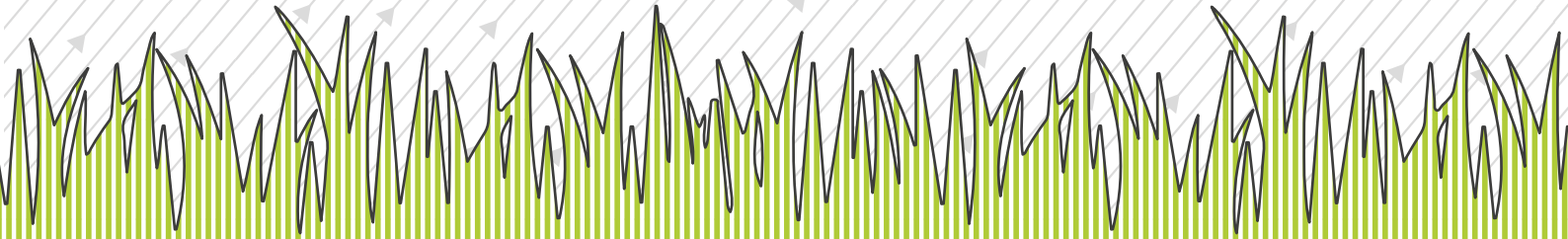


Women with disabilities on the rise

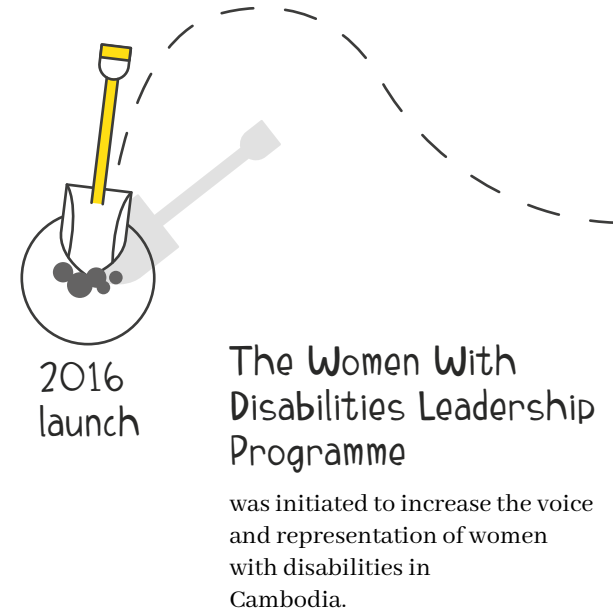


Results of a grassroots leadership programme in Cambodia



The programme

The unique voice of women with disabilities needs to be heard. But they are often excluded from women's organisations, nor do disability rights organisations identify or address specific issues for women. Addressing the issues and concerns of women with disabilities requires their participation on agendas relating to disability rights, women's rights, and development. It requires their participation in politics and the workplace. Yet they are often not involved.



Skills

We provided women with skills that they will need as leaders. Such as Communication Skills and planning skills. We also provided more general skills in Proposal Writing, Women's Rights and First Aid.



Relationships and networks

We aimed at creating bonds between the women through informal social events, as well as building more formal relationships with other stakeholders (such as local government and development agencies).



Grant Facility to practice learned skills

Women were able to apply for small grants to implement their own projects and reach out to other women with disabilities. With a high level of mentoring and peer-to-peer support, this supported the opportunity to put into practice their leadership skills by developing and implementing real projects in response to real needs in their communities.



Peer-led M&E process

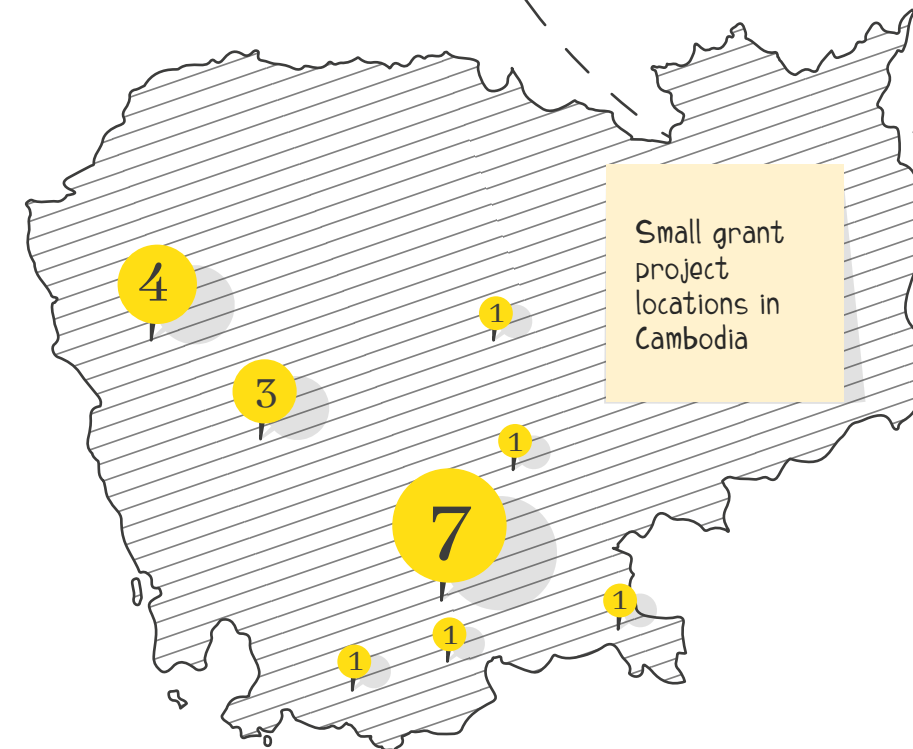
The women were empowered to set their own success indicators for their projects, learn from each other, and provide each other with critical feedback. This built accountability and transparency, as the women - rather than other stakeholders - owned the monitoring and evaluation process.

The results



The first group of women

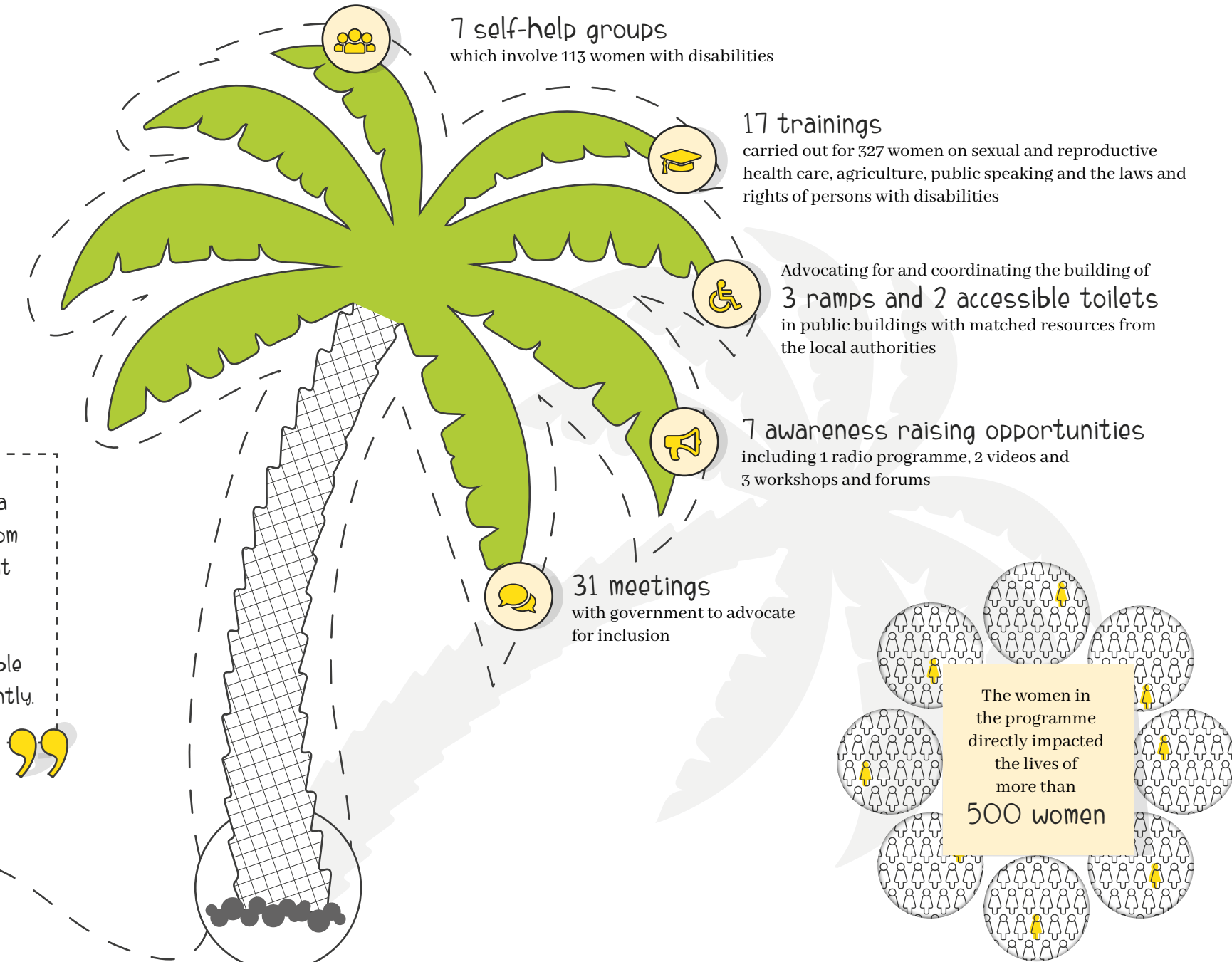
to go through the programme report increased self-confidence, increased leadership, advocacy, communication and facilitation abilities, an increased network, and increased skills in project development and implementation.



“ [This] has made a change to me from not knowing what to write, where to start [...] to a person who is able to do so confidently. ”

The impact

The women in the programme then impacted the lives of other women through:



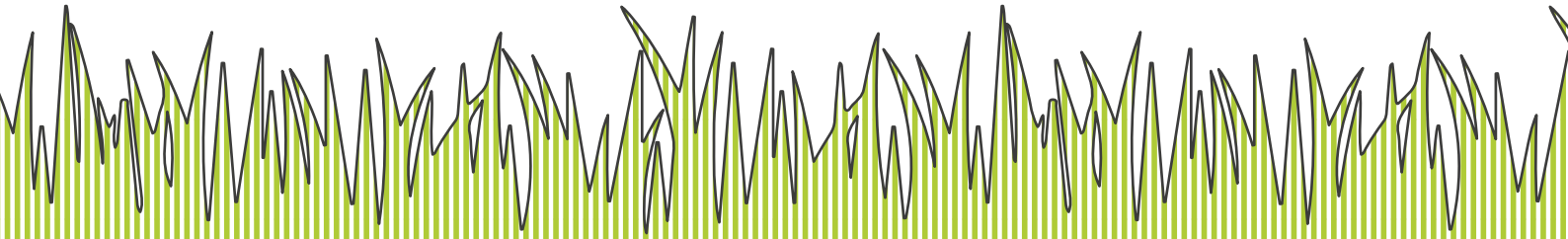
What's next?

In 2018, a new cohort of 25 women has entered the leadership programme, and they will be will be mentored by SeeYou Foundation (previously Light for the World Netherlands), Light for the World Cambodia and supported by the original group of women. In addition, the group has taken the initiative to set up a lobby and advocacy network for Women with Disabilities in Cambodia. They are currently in the process of formalizing this network.

“

I used to think that as a woman with a disability I couldn't be a leader. Now, instead of saying the word 'I can't', I love to say, 'I definitely can'!

”



More information?

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