

United Nations Development Programme



*Empowered lives
Resilient nations.*

A photograph of a man and a woman in a rural setting, both smiling and engaged in planting young green seedlings into the soil. The man is on the left, wearing a light blue striped shirt and dark shorts. The woman is on the right, wearing a white long-sleeved shirt, a red and white checkered headscarf, and a colorful patterned sarong. They are working in a field with other seedlings visible in the background.

CAMBODIA 2013
ANNUAL REPORT

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INTRODUCTION

Cambodia is well on track to achieve Millennium Development Goals 1, 4, 5 and 6, and poverty rate is set to fall further below 20 percent in 2014. Declines in infant and maternal mortality have already exceeded 2015 targets (CMDG Report, 2013). Despite the anxieties and concerns in the run-up to the election, Cambodia's economy continued to grow, reaching 7.6 percent growth in 2013 and sustained by garment exports, tourism and construction. With GDP per capita at US\$1,036 compared to approximately US\$200 in 1992, Cambodia is well on its way to be ranked as a lower middle-income country (MIC) in the near future.

The political landscape in Cambodia is undergoing an unprecedented transformation following the election of 28 July 2013, where more than 6 million Cambodians cast their votes. The ruling Cambodian People's Party (CPP) won 68 seats in the National Assembly, followed by 55 of its main contender, Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP).

Going forward, Cambodia faces two main challenges: exposure to climate change and insufficient investment in human capital.

The country has been consistently ranked by various international studies as one of the most vulnerable countries. Some 43 percent of its communes (or 49 percent of households) are found to be running the risk of climate change impacts. Building the adaptive capacity of households is, therefore, a critical priority. In the last quarter of 2013, a combination of successive typhoons, rising water in the Mekong River, flash floods and heavier-than-average monsoon rains caused

widespread flooding in 20 provinces, killing 168 people and affecting 377,354 households. This meant more debt and migration, particularly among poor and landless people (NCDM, 2014).

With 80 percent of the labour force barely completing lower secondary education, many young Cambodians are competing for jobs at the low end of the labour market, or migrating to neighbouring countries to earn a living. Public investment in education is 2 percent of GDP, which is not enough to boost human capital. This will continue to limit employment opportunities for young Cambodians entering working age. (Shandre, 2013 UNDP Policy Report).

Acquiring the MIC status will mean another major accomplishment for Cambodia but with it also comes new complexities. Experience has shown that the transition to it tends to be accompanied by rising inequalities, socio-economic exclusion and increasing degradation of the environment and natural resources. These are among the priorities UNDP will be working on to assist Cambodia in making sure that its future growth is both inclusive and sustainable.

With some 60 percent of the population below the age of 30, the country stands to gain from a 'demographic dividend', where economic growth potential will be boosted by a large working-age population for the next two decades. But while development continues and there are successes across the board, some 50 percent of Cambodian households still earn just above or just below the poverty line (CMDG Report, 2013).



Savings group committee hands out loan to its members in Boeung Kachhang village, Koh Kong province in southwestern Cambodia. Photo: UNDP Cambodia

VILLAGE SAVINGS GROUP KEEPS LIVELIHOODS AFLOAT

Koh Kong – Fisherman Srun Bun Thuon saw his family's life crumble seven years ago when he lost his house due to a microfinance debt.

“Even our daughter's earrings were not spared. I took them off her ears to sell to pay off the debt,” the fisherman's wife, Nhek Sophy, said, recalling the family's misfortune in 2006.

During the past seven years, the couple has managed to get back on its feet. Borrowing from the village's savings fund, they have revived their crab-fishing business and saved enough money to build a new house.

In Boeung Kachhang, a tiny island tucked in the mangroves in Koh Kong province in the south-western coast of Cambodia, the fund offers villagers a lifeline in times of need. When banking services are out of reach, the villagers, bound by mutual trust, pool money to use as start-up capital for small businesses or in cases of emergency.

The savings group is an off-shoot of a broader climate change adaptation initiative which has received funding from Sweden and Australia. The project, overseen by UNDP and the Global Environment Facility, helps to preserve a swath of mangroves linked to the 23,750-hectare Peam Krosorp protected area, about a one-hour ride by boat from the provincial town.

“These mangroves work as a natural buffer to protect villages against storms and coastal erosion in addition to providing habitat for many marine species,” Hun Marady, Deputy Director of the Provincial Department of Environment, explained. He added: “They are

also the resource the locals depend on for survival.”

The mangroves used to suffer a lot of destruction from villagers felling them to feed charcoal kilns and make way for shrimp farming. To reverse the trend, local authorities engaged the villagers in conservation, creating a savings group where they can borrow money for small business as an alternative to destroying mangroves.

“If the people go to borrow from outside, the money will flow out of the village by way of repaying the loan and interest. On the contrary, our savings group keeps the money moving right here in the village,” said Lorn Rith, head of the conservation committee in Boeung Kachhang village, where the savings group has 141 members. The neighbouring Koh Sralao village has two savings groups with 44 members.

Lorn Rith said 10 million riel (US\$2,500) is lent out every month. The amounts range from US\$250 to US\$2,000 per client at 2 percent interest per month compared to 2.7 percent levied by microfinance firms.

The clients voluntarily decide how much money per day to set aside for savings. A book-keeper goes door to door to collect the deposits. Once a month the group meets to certify the record, process new loans and repayments, and tally the balance sheet. At year's end, the accumulated interest is calculated and divided up among the members to put back in their pockets.

“It is more convenient to take a loan from the

community savings, and the benefits just go back to the community,” said Phoeung Phieng, a 58-year-old mother.

On a recent afternoon she came to the community centre to pay an instalment for a loan she had taken to buy a motorboat for her son to transport goods and passengers. Out of US\$61.25 due from her, she was able to pay only US\$12.50 and US\$10 interest. The boat taxi business only broke even the previous month so she asked to defer the full instalment to a later date. Such deferment is permitted under the group's regulations to allow borrowers time to earn enough money to pay back.

“With lenders from outside, we must pay instalments in the exact amount due and on time,” she said, adding that borrowers are penalized when they fail to meet the requirements.

It happened to Srun Bun Thuon, the fisherman, in 2006. That year was a bad fishing season and he only just managed to get by. Overdue instalments, interest and penalties kept piling up and his lender was about to forfeit his house. He sold it to repay the debt and, with his wife, later disappeared from the village out of shame.

After eking out a living as a construction worker in Phnom Penh for one year, Srun Bun Thuon, 39, returned to the village. Thanks to loans from the savings group, he is now back in the crab-fishing business. A motorbike and a motorboat are the latest additions to his family's assets.

“The community helped us get our lives back,” he said.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT



Students attending a gender class at a university in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.
Photo: UNDP Cambodia

HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

Human capital development and its link with industrial development policy formed the majority of policy support work done by UNDP in Cambodia in 2013. The Cambodia Industrial Development Policy is a strategic document aimed at addressing key policy, regulatory and institutional issues to foster inclusive and sustainable growth.

In collaboration with researchers from the Supreme National Economic Council, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, and National Education Authority, the policy study on “Higher Education and Skill Framework for Industrial Transition” has been finalized and dialogue has been held among high level government policy-makers and development partners. The study primarily served as a key input to the drafting process of the Cambodian Industrial Development Policy 2014-2018. It provided a critical analysis on the persistence of a severely under-educated workforce “stock” by 2025 and proposed recommendations based on successful experiences of education reforms that other ASEAN countries have applied in response to industrial policy challenges at different stages of development.

The challenge of informal fees in the education sector has been recognized by the Royal Government of Cambodia. UNDP Cambodia is working on a project called ‘Cost of Education’ which looks into the implications of informal fees in the education sector, notably the issues of private tutoring in classrooms and school management and development. The policy options discussed in the study were welcomed by government partners as timely inputs to the education reform agenda.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY

It is clear that Cambodia needs to expand its economy, from relying on garment exports, construction and tourism, to more valuable industrial activities to prevent it from falling into the “middle-income trap” in future. The Industrial Development Policy (IDP) is guiding this transition. It highlights the need to strengthen education at primary and secondary levels, and focus on technical and vocational education and training (TVET) to boost employment opportunities for Cambodian citizens. To feed into the IDP strategy, a policy study entitled ‘Higher Education and Skill Development Framework for Industrial Transition’ was done with support from UNDP. It discussed links between human capital and industrial policy, and structural changes in the Cambodian economy. It underlined the need to increase the productivity of the under-educated and unskilled labour force through continuous learning paths, improve educational attainment of new labour market entrants and use public-private partnerships to break systematic under-investment in education and skill building.

Other policy papers which will assist the country’s long-term development include:

- The final draft of the Petroleum Policy, completed with technical input from UNDP
- One chapter of the Mineral Policy, completed with technical input from UNDP
- A study on informal fees in the Education sector, completed and recommendations received by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport



Women bringing a newly born child to get vaccination at a hospital in Cambodia.
Photo: UNDP Cambodia



Local council officials outlining plan to mainstream climate change adaptation in commune investment plan in Chong Ampil commune, Prey Veng province. Photo: UNDP Cambodia

SOCIAL PROTECTION STRATEGY

Social protection is one of the pillars of the five-year UN Development Assistance Framework in Cambodia, and a key priority for UNDP. It is particularly crucial for those still hovering near the poverty line in Cambodia.

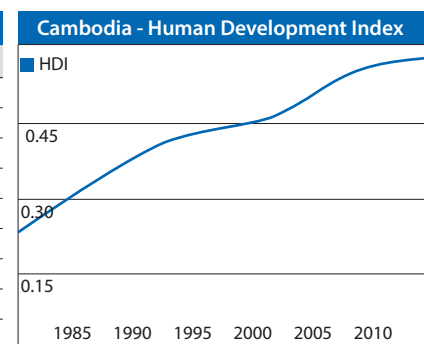
With poverty reduction and effective, responsive governance in mind, UNDP is working to bolster social protection by supporting the design of policies and strategic frameworks, as well as strengthening institutions necessary to establish an effective and inclusive social protection strategy in Cambodia. In recognition of the importance of social protection in reducing poverty and fighting inequality, in 2011 the Government unveiled the National Social Protection Strategy (NSPS). This sets five objectives for social protection. With support from UNDP, the NSPS now has a monitoring framework with a set of outcome indicators where progress can easily be calculated every year against the baseline. The government will be using this baseline to set suitable targets in the next strategy cycle. UNDP also carried out a micro-insurance demand survey to assess the main risks faced by the poorest Cambodian people and to determine whether people were willing and ready to transfer the risk to the private sector. The report showed that more than 70 percent of Cambodians would be willing to transfer health risk and crop failure risk to the private sector through an insurance product, a promising prospect for insurers wanting to invest in Cambodia.

NEW FIVE-YEAR DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The Government lays out the country's development targets through the National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP). The new plan for 2014-2018 incorporates strategies needed to achieve each Millennium Development Goal. It looks at Cambodia's post-2015 challenges and what needs to happen to achieve each goal.

UNDP assisted staff from the Ministry of Planning to develop the NSDP, which was approved by the Council of Ministers in May 2013. It proposes a more flexible government structure, giving greater autonomy to local authorities and highlighting the need to decentralize planning by developing more local public investment programmes.

Cambodia - Human Development Index		
Date	HDI Value	HDI Ranking
2013	0.584	136°
2012	0.579	137°
2011	0.575	137°
2010	0.571	135°
2008	0.564	125°
2005	0.536	123°
2000	0.466	121°
1990	0.403	116°
1980	0.251	119°



Source: Human Development Report 2014



Cambodian women discuss commune investment plan with local officials at Chong Ampil commune, Prey Veng province. Photo: UNDP Cambodia

WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

Promoting gender equality and women's empowerment is at the core of Neary Rattanak, the Government's plan for implementing its gender policy. Updated every five years, the plan is now starting its fourth phase (2014-2018) and focuses on women's economic empowerment, addressing violence against women and mainstreaming gender across all ministries and programmes. In addition to it, a 10-year policy on gender equality and women's empowerment is being developed as a long-term vision to leverage for gender mainstreaming to influence national policies, programmes and reforms across all levels of government. The Ministry of Women's Affairs is taking the lead in developing the policy with support from all partners. This exercise is done with an emphasis on gradually shifting the position of Neary Rattanak IV from a project-based to a programme-based approach, and from being a project implementing arm to playing advisory and advocacy roles.

For the first time, last year the issues faced by HIV-affected women and girls were reflected in the reporting process of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). UNDP, with support from the Asia-Pacific Regional Centre, ensured this recognition for the first time in a public document which stated that HIV-affected women, including sex workers and transgender women, face disproportionate violence. It made a direct call to review the national policies on HIV and AIDS which restrict post-exposure prophylaxis to cases of occupational injuries, so that all survivors of rape have access to medication that can protect them from contracting HIV in case they are exposed.



Sweden-funded canal restoration allows farmers in Chong Ampil commune, Prey Veng province, to increase rice farming, improving their resilience to climate change impacts. Photo: UNDP Cambodia

TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE THREATS

In November 2013, the Government launched the Cambodia Climate Change Strategic Plan (CCCSP 2014-2023) which outlines its vision to promote climate-resilient and low-carbon development for the next 10 years. Among its priorities it calls for greater adaptation activities aimed at strengthening the resilience of rural communities to cope with major climatic events. All climate-related issues, including a climate change financing framework, will also be gradually integrated into development strategies and planning at all levels – national and sub-national.

Since it was unveiled, the CCCSP has been gradually making inroads in the provinces with sub-national authorities integrating it into their development planning, to improve readiness for climate-related threats.

The strategic plan represented another milestone achievement of the Cambodia Climate Change Alliance (CCCA), an initiative funded by the EU, Sida, Danida and UNDP.



Mr. Say Sorn, in the background, and his wife, Yi Sinuan, in the background, feed fish they raise in the backyard of their house in Siem Reap province. Photo: UNDP Cambodia

BACKYARD FISH FARM – an answer to food insecurity in rural areas

Siem Reap – In the past when he needed fish for his wife to cook food, Mr. Say Sorn would fetch a net to cast in the canal in his village. These days he can just get it right from his backyard – a landscape occupied by a giant water filtration tank, hatching containers and 12 fish ponds holding about three tons of fish.

Welcome to Mr. Say Sorn's fish farm – a positive model of how family fish breeding like his can help ensure food security for the rural population in Cambodia.

Say Sorn got into this venture six years ago after noticing that fish stock was dwindling in the Cambodian river systems. The reasons, he said, are the increase in the country's population and illegal methods used by many fishermen in their trade.

"My fear is that there may not be many fish left in the river to catch in the future," Say Sorn said while feeding his fish.

The 73-year-old man used to earn a living from repairing motorcycles in his village about 15 kilometres west of Siem Reap provincial town. And part of his responsibility as a breadwinner was to catch fish – the main source of protein for Cambodians – for his wife to cook. "More and more I was able to make little catch. There were days when I couldn't catch any fish at all," he said.

Initially, he knew nothing about raising fish. What he did was buy fingerlings from a local

market to release into a pond at home. But none of them survived because the water was too murky. "I thought they would grow up just as any fish in any water," he recalled.

He did not give up, and his persistence caught the attention of Cambodia's Fisheries Administration (FiA). Through support from development agencies and the Cambodia Climate Change Alliance (CCCA), a programme funded by the EU, Sweden, Denmark and UNDP, the FiA gave him some training in sustainable fish farming. It was part of a broader government strategy designed to enable rural families to increase food security, improve their ability to earn income and adapt to the impacts of climate change. CCCA has also awarded grants to similar climate-resilient fishery projects in three other provinces: Kratie, Kampong Thom and Pursat.

"In other parts of the country we have many villagers who are doing family fish farms like Mr. Say Sorn," Chin Da, Deputy Director of the Department of Aquaculture Development, said. He added, however, that Say Sorn stood out as someone with "a strong commitment" to his work and who "actively shares technical information about fish farming to other villagers too".

"I have so far taught about 200 people fish hatching and nursing techniques for free," Say Sorn said. "Water filtration is important. It helps improve the quality of the water and increase the amount of oxygen in it, which is crucial if the fingerlings are to survive and

grow," he explained.

Today, his 7,000-square metre backyard is a sophisticated fish raising facility. A key feature is the concrete filtration tank. Here, ground water is stored and filtered through layers of rock and sand, used to hatch and nurse fingerlings before they are big enough to be released into ponds. There, the fingerlings and brood stock are raised inside floating nylon cages designed to keep them from escaping during floods. The 12 ponds on the farm hold about three tons of carp, tilapia and African catfish. From their sales, Say Sorn is able to make an average income of US\$150 a month to support his family of five. Last year, using his savings from the fish sales, he bought two bicycles for his granddaughters to ride to school and a computer to help them in their studies.

Despite the success, he still has one major problem – rats. At night, they invade the farm by chewing at the net that forms the fence around the ponds.

"Maybe to protect my fish I should also raise a lot of cats to catch the rats," he said, adding that, with his advancing age, one day he will retire for good.

One of his two granddaughters, Say Danou, 18, is ready to carry on his legacy.

"This is already our family's business and, if I can, I will make the farm even bigger in the future," she said.



COMMUNITY-BASED ADAPTATION

With a focus on flooding and drought, the Cambodia Community-Based Adaptation Programme (CCBAP) works directly with rural communities on water resource management, resilient agricultural techniques, livelihood improvements and capacity building on climate change. These adaptation measures were implemented through 18 projects which benefit 11,025 households in 25 communes across 16 provinces. Specific activities included:

- Installation of 2,600 metres of pipeline to provide water for household use and home gardening;
- Creation of 18 new saving groups, bringing their total number to 33 in 28 villages. In 2013, the groups accumulated US\$10,450 in savings to offer low-interest loans to 880 members, 56 percent of whom are women;
- Rehabilitation of 11,000 metres of canals to irrigate 1,950 hectares of rice fields during the rainy season and 550 hectares during the dry season. Some 2,335 households benefited from the restored canals.



*A UNDP-supported community-based adaptation initiative help improve livelihoods and resilience for many people in rural communities of Cambodia.
Photo: UNDP Cambodia*

With better irrigation and production techniques, villagers have been able to plant rice up to three times per year. Subsequently, they were able to earn more from increased yields and multiple harvests.

Knowledge on climate change adaptation and climate-resilient farming practices is critical for rural communities. This has been the key focus of the project 'Promoting Climate Resilient Water Management and Agricultural Practices in Rural Cambodia'. The results are:

- 16 communes in Preah Vihear and Kracheh provinces received support in development planning with climate change adaptation;
- Two medium-scale irrigation systems have been rehabilitated in two target communes in Kracheh province. More than 2,000 households get water for home gardening, animal raising and rice farming. The rehabilitated canals irrigated some 730 hectares of rice fields during the dry season;
- More than 3,600 families have adopted adaptive measures such as rice varieties, water harvesting, seed purification, dripping systems, integrated farming systems, SRI and early warning information in their livelihood activities;
- Rainwater harvesting has been adopted by 1,020 households in 23 villages, with 850 hectares of new land under irrigation and an 18 percent increase in average crop yields through cultivation of climate-resilient rice varieties.

MINE CLEARANCE

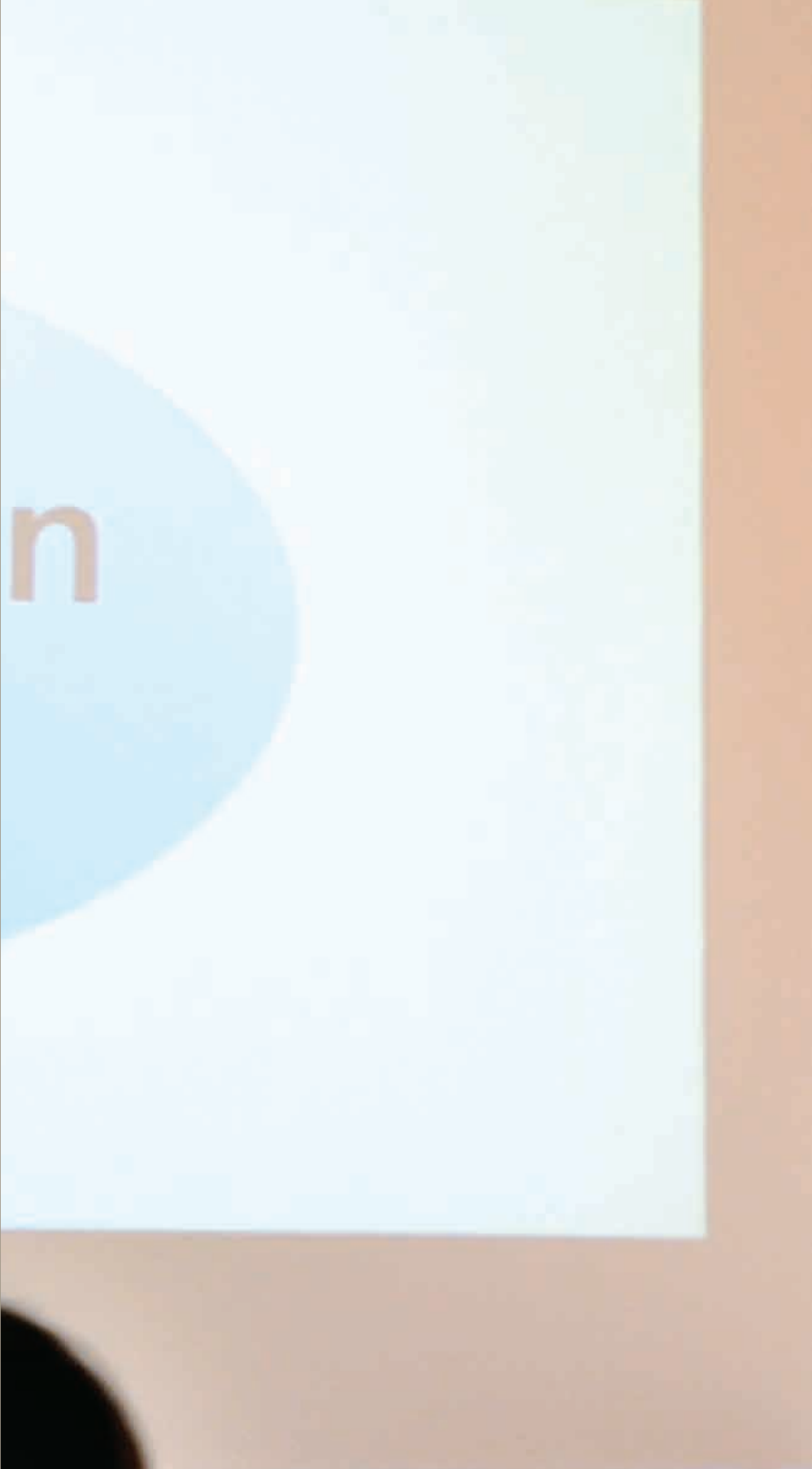
In November 2013, the Clearing for Results II (CFR II) project achieved its funding target of US\$25 million through its new development partner, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. UNDP and its partner, the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority, also reached a milestone by exceeding the annual target.

Last year alone, 17 square kilometres of land was released, adding up to a total of 83 square kilometres of land released since 2011 when the second phase of the project began. This exceeds the project target of 72 square kilometres by 2015.

CFR II contributed to the decline in landmine casualties in the project's target provinces of Battambang, Banteay Meanchey and Pailin, with a 67 percent decrease in 2013 from 2012. Almost 80 percent of the land released in 2011 was being used for agriculture. The project helped improve the lives of nearly 93,100 individuals, half of whom were women, and more than 1,000 of whom were people with disabilities.

ACHIEVING THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

why women
in tech?



Ms. Sikieng Sok, a member of Cambodian Women in ICT group, makes a presentation during a gathering on "The world needs more women in technology" in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Photo: UNDP Cambodia

The fourth progress report on Cambodia's Millennium Development Goals (CMDGs) was released in 2013. It shows that the country is on track to achieve CMDGs 1, 4, 5 and 6. The poverty rate dropped to below 20 percent. Declines in infant and maternal mortality have already exceeded 2015 targets.

The net enrolment rate at primary school level is impressive at more than 90 percent, having progressively improved over the last five years. Gender balance is also maintained. But the challenge still lies in the lower-secondary and secondary levels due to low enrolment and completion rates. The poor quality of education must be addressed in order to improve the country's human capital.

While a lot has been achieved in gender parity, there are some gaps in higher education and public representation. Of particular concern is women's representation in public office.

The Government has identified protected areas and community-protected areas as part of its environmental protection strategy. Its current protection system includes 23 protected areas totalling 3.1 million hectares, amounting to some 18 percent of the country's total land area. These are positive developments. However, environmental issues to be addressed include reforestation, preserving fresh water sources, improving livelihoods of people who depend on natural resources, and governance of forests.

Although the Government has maintained healthy partnerships, aid alignment remains a challenge. This is even more pronounced, as all signs point to a decline in the flow of traditional aid and a shift to loans instead.

Between 2009 and 2012, mine clearance operators cleared and released 40,529 hectares of contaminated land for productive use: agriculture, resettlement and infrastructure development (schools, health centres, roads and irrigation systems). Casualties have also reduced, yet difficulties remain due to resource constraints and the size of the problem posed by land mines and explosive remnants of war.



A Cambodian man readies his cassava for planting in his farm which has been cleared of landmines through a UNDP-supported project. Photo: UNDP Cambodia

SAFER GROUND: where crops, not landmines, are planted

Banteay Meanchey - For many small-holder farmers in western Cambodia, farming can be a risky business. Not only are landmines and explosive remnants of war a safety hazard, but they also hinder agricultural productivity which is often a ticket to a better income and greater food security for poor families.

In Banteay Meanchey province, 55-year old Teng Louch is happy. Nineteen anti-personnel mines and anti-tank mines were found, removed and destroyed in Malai district, including in plots of land near his home.

"I used to be a labourer, cultivating other people's land for them and being paid 16,000 riel (\$4) a day," said Mr. Teng Louch. "Now, I can plant near my home and earn from it."

Through the Clearing for Results project, UNDP and its partners have been helping the Government of Cambodia clear landmines in the most highly contaminated provinces of Battambang, Banteay Meanchey and Pailin.

The US\$25 million project, supported by the governments of Australia, Canada, Switzerland, Austria and the United Kingdom, has helped clear around 83 square kilometres of land since 2006. The project, now on its second phase and implemented by the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA), has also contributed to the steady

decline of landmine casualties throughout Cambodia, from 188 in 2006 to 48 in 2013.

Some 80 percent of land cleared in the three provinces in 2011 is now being used for agricultural purposes, according to the project's post-clearance monitoring. Teng Louch's family is benefitting from this.

"I was able to plant cassava and rice on my 1.6 hectares of land," Mr. Teng Louch said. "The following year, I earned US\$667 from the cassava and harvested 10 sacks of rice."

In Battambang province, 36-year-old Len Pheap now grows sesame and mango seedlings on a 200 metre by 25 metre plot in her backyard, which was swept clear of landmines through the Clearing for Results project. Come harvest time, Ms. Len Pheap could earn around US\$138 from sesame and as much as \$1,031 from mangoes, a good profit considering she used to earn 4,000 riel (US\$1) per day as a hired labourer clearing forests.

Both Mr. Teng Louch and Ms. Len Pheap said they use their earnings for basic necessities such as food, clothes, medicines, children's school fees, and for household utilities. Mr. Teng Louch has also set aside a small portion of his profit to hire a tractor to prepare the soil for the next cropping season. Ms. Len Pheap,

on the other hand, saved money to hire trucks to collect water from the nearby river for her crops.

Despite progress, clearing land mines and explosive remnants of war in Cambodia continues to face many difficulties, caused by both the nature of the task and resource constraints.

The Clearing for Results project received a new boost when the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) contributed US\$3 million in November 2013. The fund will be used to support various activities under the project, which is implemented by CMAA until the end of 2015.

Ms. Rahel Boesch, SDC's Director of Cooperation, said the financial contribution demonstrated the firm commitment of Switzerland to fight against anti-personnel mines and the consequences of cluster munitions, as well as other explosive remnants of war.

"It is our conviction that all citizens in the world deserve a minimum of human security and protection from the danger posed by these weapons not only during, but also post, violent conflict," Ms. Boesch said during the grant signing ceremony on 26 November.



Cambodian women making their voices heard in discussing commune investment plan with local officials at Chong Ampil commune, Prey Veng province. Photo: UNDP Cambodia



BUILDING ACCOUNTABLE LOCAL GOVERNANCE

With greater local autonomy, officials at the sub-national level will be more responsible for making decisions that affect their communities. UNDP has helped the National League of Communes/Sangkats (NLCS) to design a strategic policy, management system and structure so they can represent and advocate for local governments and communities. UNDP is also assisting the National Committee for Democratic Development to review the country's system of sub-national governance. A code of conduct has been developed for members of Local Government Associations (LGA), outlining the minimum requirements of conduct and behaviour of local councillors. Its establishment has provided a strong base for building capacity around accountability, integrity, transparency, professionalism and delivery of services. It will enhance public confidence in the integrity of local governments and the councils they represent.

BETTER DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

The Cambodia Disaster Loss and Damage Database, or CamDi, was developed with UNDP support and unveiled in October 2013. The National Committee for Disaster Management operates the system, which houses information on all disasters: flood, fire, storm, drought, lightning, pest outbreak, riverbank collapse and epidemic. The database allows analysts to devise ways to tackle damage and loss in future. It is the first time a centralized system has been available as a long-term strategic tool in Cambodia. The data will also assist in recovery and reconstruction efforts after disasters hit, and more importantly, make sure people are better prepared for disasters.

POST-FLOOD NEED ASSESSMENT

UNDP and the National Committee for Disaster Management jointly conducted an assessment of the damages and losses caused by the flood in 2013. The Post-Flood Need Assessment saw the participation of relevant government ministries, provincial departments, UN agencies previously engaged in the humanitarian support, and independent experts. It was conducted between December 2013 and January 2014. The Asian Development Bank contributed the Water and Irrigation system assessment it carried out in a separate mission. The final report, published in April 2014, measured the damages and losses for short, medium and long term recovery needs. Through the coordination by ADB, the report was shared with donors, resulting in over US\$200 million raised to respond to Cambodia's post-flood recovery needs.

UN-REDD

While Cambodia has some of the highest levels for forest cover among Southeast Asian countries, large-scale agro-industrial development and lax law enforcement on forest management mean the country is facing severe deforestation.

To tackle alarming rates of deforestation, the UN-REDD programme provides technical and financial support for the Government to be ready to implement policies and measures outlined by REDD+.

In 2013, the UN-REDD programme made major contributions to the establishment of all the key institutions that would enable formulation and implementation of a national REDD+ strategy. These institutions include a REDD+ taskforce, consultation group, and four technical teams (on safeguards, benefit sharing, demonstration and measuring, and reviewing and verifying carbon).

Delegations from Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Vietnam, Pakistan, Nepal, Malaysia and Papua New Guinea visited Cambodia to learn first-hand from work that is being done on REDD+.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

In 2013, UNDP worked to develop forest management and business plans for 30 mature community forests and 10 community protected areas. All 30 community forest management teams completed the first six steps of the community forestry management planning process, and the first three phases of the business/enterprise development process.

One notable activity was support in the production of energy-efficient cook stoves and charcoal kilns, generating jobs and income in local communities and contributing to a reduction in CO₂ emissions. The production of cook stoves and charcoal kilns exceeded the original plan, with more than 36,000 Neang Kongrey Stove (NKS) units made in 2013. Of these, 35,540 units were sold in the market. Eleven efficient charcoal kilns were constructed and given to charcoal producers.

Women played an active role in forest management. A total of 312 women out of 1,142 community forest members took part in field training to identify forest resources on which their communities depend on for survival.



YOUTH CIVIC EDUCATION

Cambodia has the youngest population in Southeast Asia, with up to 30 percent of its 14.7 million people aged between 15 and 30 years old. Just a few years ago, many of them knew little about participation in civic life or how to address issues concerning them and their community.

But they are now demonstrating a greater interest in contributing to civic life after seeing the Loy9 programme, a multi-media initiative on youth civic education. This was among the key findings of a survey by



Cambodian youth acting in a TV show as part of a multimedia youth civic education supported by UNDP. Photo: UNDP Cambodia

the programme, which has been implemented by BBC Media Action with funding from Sweden and UNDP.

The survey, “Loy9: Reaching and Engaging Cambodian Youth on Issues of Civic Participation”, said young people in Cambodia have a high awareness of opportunities for civic participation. A majority of 89 percent have heard of at least one opportunity for participation, such as contributing to the commune development plan, community service or participating in religious associations. Youth exposed to Loy9 demonstrated greater awareness of opportunities for community participation than those not exposed. For example, they were much

more likely than those unexposed to the programme to have heard of any opportunity (18 percent vs. 6 percent). Those exposed to Loy9 were more likely to be doing community service through school (36 percent vs. 23 percent), attending leadership training (19 percent vs. 13 percent) and participating in political organizations (27 percent vs. 19 percent).

The level of participation in the electoral process by those exposed to Loy9 was also higher compared to those not exposed to it. The survey found a higher proportion of exposed youth compared to unexposed youth had voted in national elections (68 percent vs. 63 percent).



Son Kimhuon, 30, stores water in the jaf at her house in Kraing Serey village. The committee in the village is now working on a plan to sell excess water to neighboring villages hoping to raise fund to the sustain the utility far into the future. Photo: UNDP Cambodia

SMALL INITIATIVES HELP COMMUNITIES THRIVE

Kampong Speu – The late morning heat was building up and Nuon Chhuon realized it's time to give his pigs a shower.

"They need to be hosed at least three times a day to cool off," the 69-year-old farmer said, referring to the 10 piglets that were busy competing for their mother's milk in the pen. "My son plans on getting married and this is where he will get his wedding money from."

Not long ago, raising pigs in his backyard never crossed his mind since his village of 335 people did not even have enough water for cooking and washing.

The construction of a water reservoir has finally put an end to their plight and brought significant changes to the lives of the people of Kraing Serey, in Kampong Speu province. And now they are discussing a bigger plan: to sell excess water to neighboring villages.

"There is more than enough water for us to go around these days. We can keep the excess water to entertain our eyes but that won't bring any income to our community," said Long Thim, 36, the community leader.

In the past, he said, the villagers spent on average four hours daily just on collecting water. Women, who make up more than half of the village's population, bore the brunt of the work. Children also had to skip classes often to help with the task. Some people had their sleep shortened at night to rush to the wells before others could drain them of water.

Others had to buy it from outside, paying US\$2 for every 400 litres of water just to last a few days. That's a heavy sum in a country where many people still scrape by on less than US\$1 a day.

"Only after we found some water to bring home could we set our minds on other things for the rest of the day," said Chea Sarom, 41 and a mother of five children. "My children used to look very unhappy whenever I made them go fetch water after they returned from school," she added. They no longer have to shoulder the burden since their home is now hooked to a pipe system that brings water up to their front yard.

Kraing Serey village is among rural communities without access to a sufficient water source – whether for farming or consumption. But its proximity to a foothill, the villagers said, makes it impossible to dig any wells deep enough to provide one of human's most essential needs. This is especially difficult during dry season.

The situation began to reverse in 2013. A reservoir – four metres deep and 5,400 square metres wide – was built, with funding from Sweden, to catch rainwater flushing down the surrounding hills. A pipeline was later laid to connect to all 67 houses in the village. They are now equipped with water-supplied toilets, which the villagers said have contributed to the decline in water-borne disease such as diarrhea among children. People are growing vegetables for sale and food. Others are raising pigs to diversify their source of income

– and to collect manure to make cooking gas.

Now it's time to reach out to help their neighbors.

Long Thim said that, in May this year, the pipeline was extended to sell water to 20 houses in a neighboring village at 2,000 riel (50 US cents) per cubic metre. He said the fee is only a third of the price charged by private water truck drivers. Currently, he and the villagers are studying a request to supply the water to another 400 homes in three adjacent villages.

"We knew fully well what it was like to live with water shortage and that is why we want to help others," he said.

He acknowledged that his planned enterprise will face challenges, but he believed it is doable. The reservoir has the capacity to meet the needs of both current and new users all year round. New customers will be charged 50 US cents per cubic metre, effectively saving them US\$1 for the same amount of water they buy from outside. He said money to be earned will be used for future development in his village and, most importantly, for ensuring the long life of the utility itself.

The reservoir project was carried out by the Small Grants Programme (SGP), with support from (UNDP), as part of a broader initiative to improve resilience of 450 rural communities in Cambodia to cope with effects of climate change.

PARTNERSHIPS

Continuing inclusive dialogue on the
Post-2015 development agenda:
**Partnerships with Civil Society
and Private Sector**

May 22, 2014
InterContinental Hotel, Phnom Penh



*Members of the private sector and civil society organizations take part in the discussion on post-2015 development agenda organized by the UN system in Cambodia.
Photo: UNDP Cambodia*

HARMONIZING DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES

As Cambodia prepares to move out of low-income country status and integrate into the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), as well as set new development goals in 2015, harmonizing national development resources and activities is more important than ever. The Government acknowledges this and is finalizing a new Development Cooperation and Partnerships Strategy for 2014-2018.

The strategy lays out the achievements, challenges and opportunities that development cooperation in Cambodia has undergone, highlighting the progress that was made under the previous strategy. Global commitments, like the 2005 Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, the 2008 Accra Accord and the 2011 Busan Partnership for Development Effectiveness are reaffirmed in the new strategy, with renewed determination to work toward these goals together.

The recent global economic downturn has seen both a decrease in traditional sources of official development assistance and a rise of new, non-traditional development partners. This shift introduces new challenges and opportunities that require flexibility and innovation on the part of the Government, as well as the development community. In response, the new strategy calls for more efforts to partner with the private sector and civil society organizations, engage with regional neighbours and align activities in a cooperative way.

The strategy takes into consideration the Rectangular Strategy III and NSDP so that development cooperation efforts are aimed at Cambodia's top development priorities. The new Partnerships Strategy is due to be finalized in early 2014.

PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT RESULTS

The Partnerships for Development Results (PfDR) project works on managing aid and partnerships so that the Cambodia MDGs will be achieved. In the last five years, Cambodia has made significant progress with the global framework on aid effectiveness but there are still capacity and resource constraints which act as major bottlenecks to reaching the CMDGs by 2015. The major achievement of PfDR in 2013 was the Development Cooperation and Partnerships Strategy (2014-2018) drafted in alignment with the new Rectangular Strategy and NSDP.

Continued dependence on aid highlights the important role of external resources in supporting the national development programme. These resources need to be managed effectively. The Council for the Development of Cambodia (CDC) has established its expertise in managing aid. It needs to consolidate and expand its capacity to build partnerships and establish good working practices with national and international stakeholders to deliver results in line with the CMDGs and national policies. This will ensure that CDC can function independently of external support by 2015 and provide effective and relevant support in managing aid across all sectors.

SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

For the first time, a trilateral cooperation project is up and running in Cambodia. Implementation of the Cambodia-China-UNDP Trilateral Cooperation Cassava Project Phase II is underway following its official launch in March 2014. It addresses a priority development issue in Cambodia, which is to move cassava farmers, mostly small-holders, processors and exporters, up the value chain. With the benefit of UNDP and Chinese expertise in this field, the project promotes sustainable development, increases revenue and generates employment. This is the flagship project under the strengthened partnership for South-South Cooperation between UNDP and China.

WORKING TOGETHER



H.E. Say Sam Al, Minister of Environment, centre, Mr. Jean-François Cautain, EU's Ambassador to Cambodia, far right, and other government officials discuss progress of Cambodia Climate Change Alliance programme on 8 April 2014. Photo: Climate Change Department



UNDP works with United Nations Volunteers on a wide range of activities to contribute to peace and development in countries across the world. In 2013, 32 international and 3 national UN Volunteers served in 10 UN agencies, as well as within ministries in Cambodia, working in the areas of communications and advocacy, improving governance and human rights, gender issues, poverty reduction, food security, social protection and social policy, climate change, aid effectiveness and volunteerism. In addition, 2 Cambodian volunteers were serving as international UN Volunteers in Liberia and Sudan.

In 2013, UNDP enjoyed support from many partners, including Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, China, EU, Switzerland, Sweden, United Kingdom, Global Environment Fund, and United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS). In November 2013, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) gave US\$3 million for mine clearance in Cambodia. The fund is used to support various activities under the Clearing for Results Phase II project, which is implemented by Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority. The contribution demonstrates the firm commitment of Switzerland to fight against anti-personnel mines and the consequences of cluster munitions, as well as other explosive remnants of war.

In March, Sweden gave almost US\$1.1 million to support UNDP's multimedia youth civic education project, Loy9. The funds were used to run the Loy9 multimedia campaign, completing TV drama series two, production work for a third series, and a survey of young Cambodians to explore their knowledge, attitudes and practices around civic engagement.

In May, Sweden also gave nearly US\$1.6 million to finance climate change adaptation initiatives under the CCBAF.

Canada gave US\$2.2 million to support a UNDP climate change adaptation project for the next two years. With this funding, the Promoting Climate-Resilient Water Management and Agricultural Practices in Rural Cambodia project is now starting its second phase. Its targets are farmers and local authorities in 32 communes in Kracheh and Preah Vihear provinces.

The project will build on its previous achievements through different agricultural and livelihood schemes to help improve villagers' ability to adapt to the impacts of climate change. More than 5,500 rural families will get support to implement an integrated farming scheme, which includes home vegetable gardening and climate-resilient rice production to improve their living conditions.

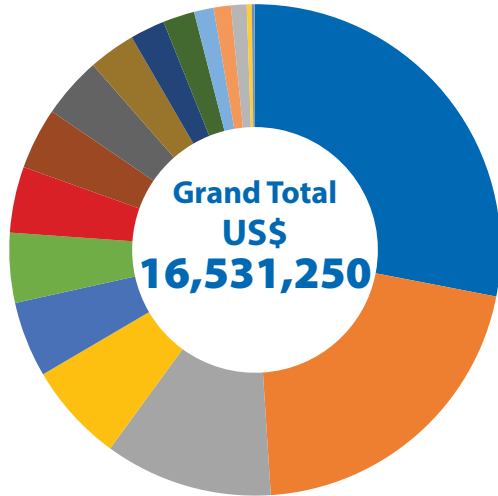
BUILDING
TOGETHER

WORKING
TOGETHER

THINKING
TOGETHER

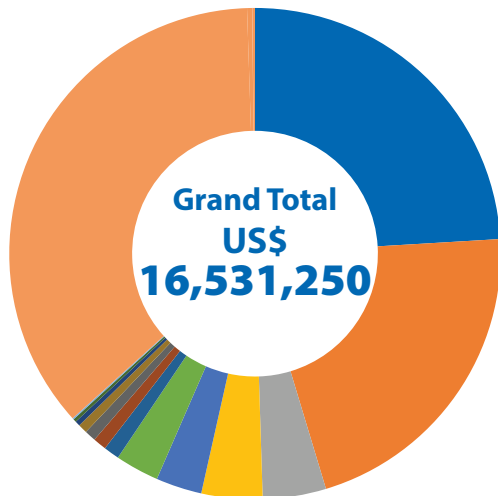
FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

Programme delivery by project 2013



Project Description	Amount in US\$
Clearing for Results II	4,635,486
Cambodia Climate Change Alliance	3,460,311
Strengthening Democracy Programme	1,828,537
Strengthening Sustainable Forest Management	1,077,618
Linking Policy and Practice for Accelerating MDG1	822,951
Cambodia UN-REDD National Programme	759,427
Cambodia Community Based Adaptation Programme	719,019
Partnership for Gender Equity III	669,545
Partnership for Development Results	665,287
Climate Resilience in Agriculture and Water	511,119
NSDP/CMDG Monitoring Support Programme	378,457
Association of Councils Enhanced Services	343,168
NAPA Follow-up Phase2	213,531
Conservation Areas through Landscape Management	186,900
Diagnostic Trade Integration Strategy Update 2013	170,755
China-Cambodia-UNDP Trilateral Cooperation on Cassava project	54,448
Strengthening Climate Information & Early Warning System	32,024
2011 Flood Early Recovery Assistant Project - FERAP	2,574
Knowledge Management Related to the 3 Rio Conventions	94

Programme delivery by donor 2013



Donor Description	Amount in US\$
CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT	3,976,087
SWEDISH INT'L DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION	3,518,536
GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA	688,427
EUROPEAN UNION	663,645
GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA	500,000
GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FUND TRUSTEE	476,189
UNOPS - EIF TRUST FUND MANAGER	170,755
GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRIA	145,889
UNITED NATIONS	122,973
SWISS AGENCY FOR DEVELOPMENT & COOPERATION	100,000
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CHINA	54,448
GOVERNMENT OF BELGIUM	34,625
GOVERNMENT OF UNITED KINGDOM	14,669
UNDP	6,065,006



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Resilient nations.*



United Nations Development Programme

Pasteur Street, Boeung Keng Kang
P. O. Box 877, Phnom Penh, Cambodia
Tel : (855) 23 216 167 or 214 371
Fax : (855) 23 216 257 or 721 042
E-mail: registry.kh@undp.org
www.kh.undp.org