

ANNUAL REPORT 2008



Fostering voices, choices and sustainable futures

Foreword

I am pleased to present our 2008 Annual Report, which highlights our main achievements and touches on some of the challenges we faced in the past year.

In July, Cambodia held its fourth national election since 1993, displaying improvements in the management of the electoral process and a marked decline in political violence. Some challenges remain, and it is important for us to work together to further improve the effectiveness and transparency of future polls. Meanwhile, we are working to help deepen democracy by strengthening the abilities of parliamentarians to represent citizens, make laws and oversee the executive government.

In May, the Organic Law on sub-national administration was passed, paving the way for the 2009 provincial, municipal and district elections. The new councils will strengthen accountability and bring the voices of everyday Cambodians closer to decision-makers. UNDP assisted in policy development at the national level and helped to strengthen processes, policies and capacities at provincial and district levels. We supported the delivery of \$71 million worth of investment funded by 16 donor partners to improve local governance, including building infrastructure, managing natural resources and strengthening capacities of staff. We also supported the development of commune council associations in every province.

Importantly, we supported the development of policies that will reduce gender inequalities in Cambodia. Gender Mainstreaming Action Groups were set up in line ministries and institutions, and a guideline was established that requires women to make up 20 to 50 percent of new staff in civil service. Additionally the 2008 Cambodia Gender Assessment yielded policy recommendations to improve gender equality in all sectors.

Following last year's Cambodia Development Cooperation Forum, the Government started work on developing a nationally integrated social safety net system. A committee was established to make an inventory of existing social safety nets and develop a national strategy to address the issue. This is crucial, as government spending on the social sector is only 3.1 percent of GDP, one of the lowest rates in the region. UNDP supports the collaborative efforts of its sister UN agencies, other development partners and the Government to ensure that a well thought out, effective and affordable system is developed.

UNDP Cambodia managed \$33 million in 2008, making Cambodia the fifth-largest country in the Asia-Pacific region in terms of UNDP's resource mobilization. As the aid effectiveness agenda moves forward, it is expected there will be a trend toward direct budget support by donors and sector wide approaches. This is a welcome development and will allow UNDP to focus on strengthening capacity in multi-donor support programmes. We are refocusing our activities to reflect this.

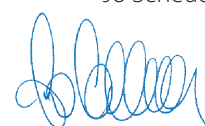
In March we assisted the Government in hosting the first Cambodian international conference on oil and gas. This initiated discussions on how best to manage these potentially valuable resources to ensure benefits for all Cambodians. This important dialogue, covering all the extractive industries including mining, must continue.

Last year we also reached the midway point of our Country Programme (2006-2010). We took this as an opportunity to reflect on and realign our work to ensure we reach our targets. An independent mid-term review showed we were on track for most of our targets, but needed to further concentrate our interventions and focus on partnerships and capacity development.

Climate change has been identified as a major threat to Cambodia's economic growth, but it is also recognized that a proactive approach could offer significant opportunities. UNDP has initiated discussions on climate change with the Government and development partners, but the private sector and civil society should also play a role. Building partnerships with many stakeholders is key to UNDP's work in this area.

Our goal is to remain a trusted, effective and credible development partner. Looking ahead, we will continue to work closely with the Government, the people of Cambodia, and our development partners to achieve our shared goals and contribute to meeting all the Cambodia Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

Jo Scheuer



Country Director

Cover photo caption: UNDP/Isabelle Lesser

Reporter for the UNDP-supported Equity Weekly programme on TVK interviews a citizen on the issue of dredging sand for export from Cambodia's waterways.

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Cambodia at a Glance

Population 2008 13.3 million	13.3 million ¹
Population annual growth rate, 1990-2007	2.3% ¹
Gross Domestic Product, 2007	US\$8.34 billion ²
GDP annual growth, real 2007	10.2% ³
Gross National Income per capita, 2007	US\$540 ⁴
Poverty (% of population below national poverty line) 2007	30.1% ⁵
Life expectancy at birth (men/women) 2006	59/65 ⁵
Literacy among people aged over 15 years old (men/women) 2004	84.7%/64.1% ⁷
Child mortality, under 5 years old (per 1,000 live births) 2006	82 ⁶
Children under five suffering from underweight, moderate and severe, 2005	35.6% ⁸
Maternal Mortality Ratio per 100,000 live births (reported) 2005	472 ⁸
Estimated adult HIV prevalence rate (aged 15-49) 2007	0.9% ⁹
People using improved drinking-water sources (urban/rural) 2006	80%/61% ⁶
Civilian casualties from landmines and ordnance (annual) 2008	288 ¹⁰

¹ National Institute of Statistics, Cambodia Population Census 2008 provisional results, www.nis.gov.kh/index.php/statistics/surveys/census2008

² National Institute of Statistics, National Accounts of Cambodia June 2008, http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/cambodia_statistics.html

³ Ministry of Economy and Finance, <http://www.mef.gov.kh/macroeconomic.php>

⁴ World Bank, http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/cambodia_statistics.html

⁵ Cambodia Socio-Economic Survey 2007

⁶ WHO, <http://www.who.int/whosis/en/index.html>

⁷ UNESCO, UNESCO UIS Database_Sep2007

⁸ Cambodia Demographic Health Survey

⁹ NCHADS (2007) Report of a Consensus Workshop: HIV Estimates and Projections for Cambodia 2006-2012

¹⁰ Monthly Mine/UXO Victim Report December 2008

2008 Overview



Photo: WCS/Eleanor Briggs

UNDP Cambodia focuses on pro-poor development through work on democratic governance, direct poverty reduction, and environment and energy

UNDP Cambodia contributed to poverty reduction in key sectors in 2008. Highlights included achievements in the areas of elections, government decentralization, equality between men and women, pro-poor trade, aid effectiveness, climate change and biodiversity conservation.

UNDP worked to support a peaceful election for the National Assembly by educating stakeholders, engaging groups of voters who are traditionally marginalized, and promoting peaceful debate in the media and in face-to-face forums. The first-ever Orientation for Members of Parliament was held, and seminars and tours to the provinces helped members become more familiar with the issues facing voters.

Decentralization of government took a major step forward with the adoption of the Organic Law on sub-national administration. UNDP advised on the drafting of the law, ensuring among other things that it took into account disparities between men and women. It also advised on regulations to put the law into effect, new structures under which the provincial and district arms of the national government can support local government, and a 10-year National Programme on Sub-National Democratic Development. Local councils themselves worked together to strengthen their voice at the national level and UNDP supported the delivery of \$71 million to improve local governance, including

\$27 million on developing infrastructure in ways that promote the accountability of councils.

Awareness of the issues that women face in Cambodian society was included in the RGC's reform of Public Financial Management and in the curriculum of the Royal School of Administration. The Civil Service adopted an affirmative action guideline that requires 20 to 50 percent of new recruits to be women.

Access to alternative dispute resolution was expanded with the establishment of 16 new Maisons de la Justice and 56 new Commune Dispute Resolution Committees. Indigenous people's customary rules were collected and disseminated to law makers and judicial officers. New forums for resolving disputes involving indigenous peoples, known as Peace Tables, resulted in a proportion of disputed land being returned to these communities.

UNDP supported the development of objectives and a monitoring plan for the Government's Sector Wide Approach to Trade and helped analyze and skills needed for implementing it. Products and services with high potential for commercial development were identified and producers' associations were targeted for assistance.

The Cambodian Rehabilitation and Development Board at the Council for the Development of Cambodia presented the second Cambodia Aid Effectiveness Report. An international conference on a potential oil and gas industry focused debate on the scope for revenues to contribute to poverty reduction. Research into key aspects of Cambodia's competitiveness identified issues facing major industries in the face of the global financial crisis.

Another 6.8 sq km of land affected by land mines and explosive remnants of war were cleared and returned to rural communities. The Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority mandated new standards and increased its monitoring of demining activities.

The Climate Change Office prepared an inventory of greenhouse gases and an assessment of climate change vulnerability. In biodiversity hotspots, populations of critically endangered species increased as a result of boundary demarcation, education, policing, community involvement and the promotion of alternative livelihoods.

How We Work

The United Nations Development Programme is one of 23 UN agencies, funds and programmes operating in Cambodia under the umbrella of the UN Resident Coordinator system, which works to ensure that UN activities complement each other and do not overlap.

UNDP concentrates on three major areas of work: promoting democratic governance, reducing poverty, and managing energy and the environment for sustainable development. A cross-cutting priority is capacity development, working to enhance the ability of individuals, organizations and societies to achieve their own development objectives. In everything it does, UNDP works to protect human rights and empower women.

UNDP partners with the Royal Government of Cambodia, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, community-based organizations, multilateral aid agencies, bilateral donors and private firms.

About 80 percent of UNDP's assistance is directly implemented by national entities such as line ministries, the Council for Development of Cambodia, Parliament, and at sub-national level line departments, and provincial, district and commune bodies. In some instances UNDP directly implements projects, for instance in support of the electoral reform and demining. Capacity development takes many forms: institutional reform and incentive mechanisms; leadership development; education, training and learning; and accountability and voice mechanisms. UNDP advisers work side by side with Cambodian counterparts to provide a combination of technical advice, conferences, study tours and formal training as well as coaching and mentoring. The skills transferred through these processes may be as simple as organizing a meeting or as complex as managing a multi-million-dollar budget over several years.

Funds come from three main sources: UNDP's central budget (about USD 8 million annually); resources mobilized from bilateral and multilateral donors locally (USD 25 to 30 million annually); and resources mobilized from special funds such as the Global Environment Facility, and the Spanish MDG Fund. Additionally UNDP administers



Photo: UNDP/Isabelle Lesser

the funds entrusted to the Cambodian side of the Extraordinary Chambers of the Court of Cambodia (ECCC).

In 2008, UNDP Cambodia employed 357 core personnel (core staff and project personnel) and contracted 117 consultants. Core staff numbered 96 (64 male and 32 female). As well, UN volunteers acted as technical advisors and specialists in support of UNDP's programmes. As a knowledge-driven organization, UNDP is committed to providing continuous learning and career development opportunities. Staff have access to the online Learning Management System, which offers 3,000 courses on a wide range of topics in several languages.

UNDP Cambodia's procurement contracting in 2008 totaled \$7.5 million. Engagement of professional services of experts and specialists from Cambodia and abroad to strengthen national capacities in programme delivery amounted to approximately \$4.6 million and accounted for 61 percent of total procurement spending. UNDP also facilitated procurement on behalf of numerous UN agencies which enabled fellowships and participation in workshops abroad by 274 Cambodians.

2008 was the first full year in which day-to-day management of UNDP was the responsibility of the new position of Country Director, rather than being handled by the UN Resident Coordinator, which enables the Resident Coordinator to represent all UN agencies equally.

UNDP staff meet local partners in Rattanakiri Province to discuss support for indigenous cultural products

Democratic Governance



Photo: UNDP

Elections for the National Assembly showed an encouraging decline in irregularities and political violence compared with previous polls

The Challenge

The Cambodian Government and its development partners agree that democratic governance is essential for **development** and **poverty reduction**. Such governance encompasses a range of factors, including the rule of law, free and fair elections, accountability of elected representatives, community participation in decision-making, access to justice, and inclusion of marginalized groups, particularly the poor, women and indigenous peoples.

Yet Cambodia is a **young democracy**, still feeling the effects of decades of war and political instability, which severely damaged civil cohesion and social trust. Institutions and capacities for responsive governance need to be strengthened, especially at the local level. Traditionally, political power and administrative authority have been highly centralized, with most people having little influence on government. Inequality and exclusion extend to the justice system and society in general, with the poor, women, youth, people with disabilities and indigenous peoples at a disadvantage in exercising their legal and civil rights. Women face significant challenges to their health, dignity and well being,

including through family-related issues such as divorce and domestic violence. Indigenous people have difficulty representing their interests in the often rapid process of development that is occurring in their traditional areas.

UNDP's response

UNDP and its partners work to promote understanding of **democratic rights and responsibilities** and to help democratic systems take root. As well as helping the electoral authorities to hold technically sound polls, UNDP works to reduce political violence and create a neutral space for debate. Elected representatives are encouraged to listen and respond to their constituents.

The **devolution of powers to local governments** is a crucial part of reforms designed to bring government closer to the people. This entails helping individuals to increase their knowledge and skills, strengthening institutions, and promoting networks among local government bodies that allow them to speak with a united voice. New legal and administrative mechanisms are being devised so that the provincial, municipal and district departments

of the national government can assume responsibility for delivering local services through and to local councils. These in turn are gaining practical experience of delivering services to local residents and administering infrastructure projects. UNDP promotes citizen participation in decision-making at the sub-national level to increase greater responsiveness and accountability in governance.

Women's participation in civic life is key to their empowerment, and UNDP works at many levels to promote gender equality, striving to ensure that women have a greater voice in decision-making and better access to productive resources. Women and the poor are also important target groups in efforts to make justice more accessible to marginalized people through support for alternative dispute resolution mechanisms. The particular needs of **indigenous** peoples are served through activities designed to strengthen recognition of their traditional rules and provide forums through which land disputes can be resolved.

Key achievements in 2008

- Political violence was markedly lower during the National Assembly elections, an improvement widely attributed to UNDP's work in educating stakeholders and providing platforms for debate
- The National Election Committee improved its ability to hold technically sound elections
- Training in electoral processes and democratic rights and responsibilities was conducted for officials of the election committees, political party agents, and grassroots stakeholders
- Civic engagement was encouraged among traditionally marginalized groups including women, youth and people with disabilities
- Media space for dialogue between political parties and examination of controversial issues was expanded through UNDP-supported television programmes
- Nearly 95 percent of voters used National Identity Cards for identification
- Members of the new National Assembly were engaged in the first-ever Orientation Forum for Parliamentarians
- The Organic Law on sub-national administration was passed and work began on a 10-year National Programme for Sub-National Democratic Development



Photo: UNDP/Sarah Dietch

- Provincial Associations of Commune/Sangkat Councils were formed in the eight remaining provinces and joined the National League of Commune/Sangkat Councils
- \$71 million was invested in rural infrastructure and service projects with UNDP advice and operational support
- Special attention was paid to women's empowerment in the Organic Law on sub-national administration, Public Financial Management Reform, the Royal School of Administration curriculum, and affirmative action for women in the civil service
- Alternative dispute resolution mechanisms were supported with the establishment of 16 new Maisons de la Justice and 36 new Commune Dispute Resolution Committees and 16 new Maisons de la Justice
- Indigenous peoples in 12 villages received training on indigenous rights, relevant laws, and skills in alternative dispute resolution
- A proportion of disputed land was returned to indigenous communities as a result of Peace Table negotiations

Election support strengthens new democratic culture

UNDP provides **long-term support** to institutions, civic education initiatives and the media to create an environment where citizens can elect their representatives in a genuinely free and fair manner. The 2008 election for the National Assembly produced important indicators of the direct and indirect benefits of UNDP's engagement, with

Civic education encourages traditionally marginalized groups to engage with the political process

"This training course is very good because it provides knowledge on election law, roles and responsibilities of observers and helps party agents to work better. This training course gave me additional knowledge to share with others."

A Phnom Penh participant in the training on electoral processes



Photo: UNDP/Isabelle Lesser

Personal ID cards support the right to vote by providing a more secure means of identification. Nearly 95 percent of voters used their cards at the 2008 poll

lower levels of election-related violence, fewer spoiled ballots, fewer complaints against local and electoral officials, and a better understanding of political and electoral processes among officials and the general public.

UNDP partnered with the National Election Committee, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Information and civil society organizations to provide technical assistance to the national, provincial and commune election committees. The partners also supported voter education, neutral forums for political discussion, training for election officials and other stakeholders, and production of fair and balanced election news on television. UNDP mobilized funds for the election and trained international observers. Civil society organizations implemented civic education for political parties' agents, security officials and village chiefs, as well as for traditionally under-served groups such as women, youth leaders, and people with disabilities.

The poll showed that the National Election Committee has strengthened its ability to administer technically sound elections. Even so, election observers remained concerned about problems with the committee's independence, legal framework and voter registration system. In the lead-up to the vote, UNDP supported two forums designed to promote a peaceful electoral environment. First, a series of high-level meetings gathered representatives from the National Election Committee and leaders of the political parties to air grievances and seek resolutions in a neutral setting. Second, the Conflict Prevention in Cambodian Elections process, funded by UNDP and led by the Cambodia

Development Resource Institute, organized a nationwide series of meetings allowing stakeholders to express their concerns.

UNDP partnered with the Neutral and Impartial Committee for Free and Fair Elections in Cambodia to conduct 405 training sessions for grassroots stakeholders spread across all 1,621 communes nationwide. A total of 20,109 people, including village chiefs, commune officials, monks, police, political party representatives and members of women's groups, discussed their election roles and the importance of neutrality. While there continued to be allegations of irregularities in polling practices, there was a significant decrease in reports of incidents involving village chiefs compared with previous elections.

UNDP supported the training of National Election Committee officials in the smooth operation of Election Day and helped develop and deliver training of trainers for staff of the Provincial Election Committees. UNDP funded 155 district trainers to assist these provincial staff, who in turn disseminated information to polling stations through Commune Election Committees. The National Democratic Institute, supported by UNDP, provided training of trainers to agents of all the competing political parties on how to monitor the work of National Election Committee officials, and UNDP Timor Leste's political party trainer helped the parties to develop their training programmes. UNDP provided material support for nationwide training of the parties' representatives at province, commune and polling station levels.

The Cambodian Disabled People's Organization worked to raise awareness and participation among people with disabilities. The Committee for Free and Fair Elections worked with 300 youth leaders from political parties and youth organizations in five provinces and ran an outreach programme including a weekly radio programme. The Committee to Promote Women in Politics aimed to increase women's leadership and participation in the election by providing training and forums, especially for religious and ethnic minority groups, in seven provinces.

UNDP supported voter education materials produced by the National Election Committee, including 130,400 posters, 4,035 banners, songs, and video stories and video spots on themes including

“non-violence”, “no weapons on polling day” and “secrecy of votes”. Other materials included a voter education video and a training video for polling staff. UNDP also distributed 6,969,103 Voter Information Notices.

TVK, Cambodia’s **national television** channel, and UNDP co-produced two programmes under the Equity banner. Equity Weekly aired 48 one-hour current affairs programmes, reporting on increasingly substantive and controversial political issues including the Khmer Rouge Tribunal, corruption, and land-grabbing. Equity News aired half-hour election news programmes on weeknights during the national election campaign and was viewed as the fairest and most balanced election news coverage on Cambodian television. Air time was allocated to political parties according to a transparent formula based on their seats in the previous National Assembly and the provinces in which they fielded candidates. In keeping with UNDP’s policy of sharing knowledge and experience among developing countries, a group of East Timorese journalists made a study tour of Equity Weekly.

The Government committed to providing US\$10 million toward the election budget. At its request, UNDP partnered with AusAID, CIDA, DANIDA, Japan, and SIDA to assemble a further US\$6,113,476. UNDP brought in a coordinator to facilitate international observers in cooperation with the National Election Committee. There were 592 international observers from 29 Embassies and NGOs, as well as 31,262 domestic observers. The committee also accredited 131,534 political party agents to monitor the voting. With assistance from UNDP, the committee achieved its aim of having women make up 30 percent of Polling and Ballot Counting Station staff, but fell short of its target for the Provincial and Commune Election Committees.

A UNDP-funded audit of the **Voter Register** in May showed that, while there had been some improvements since the previous audit in August 2007, some 59,000 names had been incorrectly deleted. These amounted to 8.6 percent of the total deletion list. Although the National Election Committee indicated it was too late in the election timetable to make changes, the audit provided a reference point for planned improvements. Many observers reported cases of would-be voters who claimed their names did not appear on the list even though they were registered. UNDP advised the committee on producing the register on CD-ROM. In the lead-up



Photo: UNDP/Socheat Huoy

to the poll, committee members and departments had enhanced and unlimited internet access.

UNDP advised the Ministry of Interior on the issue of **National Identity Cards** to all citizens aged 15 and over, which can also be used as valid identification for voting. By the end of 2008, a total of 8,058,309 cards had been issued out of the 8,936,046 it is estimated are required. Nearly 95 percent of voters used their ID cards to identify themselves at polling stations. UNDP advised the ministry on the potential for a Fingerprint Identification System to make the ID card programme safe and ensure that no-one holds more than one card.

Lawmakers study big issues, listen to people’s concerns

UNDP helps to promote good governance by supporting **Members of Parliament** in exercising their legislative, oversight and representative functions, and working with parliamentary staff to help deliver effective services to members and their constituents. UNDP’s assistance is aligned with the goals outlined in the Parliament’s 2006 Strategic Framework and Action Plan for the Capacity Building of the Cambodian Parliament. The assistance to Parliamentarians in both the National Assembly and the Senate aims to reinforce democratic institutions that act as checks and balances on the executive power. Members of Parliament are encouraged to exercise their functions in ways that contribute to a participatory and representative democracy.

The support for staff of the Secretariats General of the two houses and the Technical Coordination

Parliamentarians meet citizens during a field trip to Prey Veng province

“The seminar gave us a chance to see that human trafficking is inhumanity and mistreatment that violates human rights.”

Her Excellency Ho Naun, chairwoman of the parliamentary seminar on eliminating human trafficking and sexual exploitation



Representatives of Commune and Sangkat councils vote for office bearers of the Provincial Association of C/S Councils in Stung Treng Province

Secretariat enhances their ability to deliver effective services to both parliamentarians and citizens. In particular, UNDP provides advice to the Technical Coordination Secretariat to help it implement the Strategic Framework and Action Plan and coordinate development partner assistance.

Soon after the election, UNDP supported a two-day **Orientation Forum** to the 4th Mandate of the National Assembly for new and returning members, bringing together about 200 participants from the Parliament, the Secretariats, civil society organizations and foreign embassies. The forum was the Technical Coordination Secretariat's first opportunity to demonstrate its coordination role on a large scale and effectively bring together many development partners for a joint activity.

Parliamentarians also came together with UN agencies and civil society organizations for a series of workshops on issues including the national budget, human trafficking and Human Rights Day. Participants included UNICEF, ILO, UNOHCHR and IOM. UNAIDS provided technical expertise for activities related to outreach activities on HIV/AIDS and Parliament. UNIFEM provided co-funding for a workshop on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

Parliamentarians joined **regional forums** and **field trips** in 14 provinces, with a focus on issues including human trafficking, migration, the local court system, human rights, domestic violence and child labour. These created opportunities for interaction with constituents on the ground, including local civil society groups and Commune Councils. The Technical Coordination Secretariat provided pre-departure briefings and organized on-site meetings with civil society organizations working on

the issues. Staff of the Secretariats General of the National Assembly and Senate enhanced their professional skills through training in management, legal analysis, website design, basic information technology, and Khmer language shorthand.

A significant step forward in 2008 was the establishment of durable relationships between the Technical Coordination Secretariat and development partners active in supporting the parliament. The secretariat hosted monthly coordination meetings, creating a forum for sharing information and discussing opportunities for collaboration. Joint activities were held with the Cambodia-Canada Legislative Support Project, Germany's Center for International Migration, and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation.

Local councils expand their role in serving communities

The Government sees **decentralization** and **deconcentration** as prerequisites for economic development. Its commitment is made explicit in the National Strategic Development Plan, its foundational strategy for poverty reduction. In partnership with SIDA, DFID and the European Commission, UNDP works with the Ministry of Interior and the National Committee for Democratic Development at Sub-national Level (NCDD), to support the Government's commitment through policy advice, development of skills and knowledge, support for new representative bodies, and investment funds.

Cambodia's **administrative structure** in 2008 comprised 24 Provinces, 193 Khans or Districts, and 1,621 local government areas, known as Sangkats in towns and cities and as Communes in rural areas, where 80 percent of Cambodians live. Of these three sub-national levels of government, only the Commune/Sangkat (C/S) Councils are elected directly by popular vote, making local government a crucial entry point for democratic governance.

Under decentralization, the Government gives the Provincial, District and C/S Councils ownership of functions, authorities and resources to respond to local needs. Councils are accountable to residents. Under deconcentration, Government ministries and other institutions delegate functions and resources to their subsidiary units or to councils, which implement policies on their behalf.

A pivotal moment came in 2008 when the National Assembly adopted the Law on Administrative Management of the Capital, Province, Municipality, District and Khan. Better known as the **Organic Law** on sub-national administration, it was drafted with the assistance of UNDP. The law paved the way for indirect elections for provincial, municipal and district councils in 2009, and established the NCDD, which began developing the detailed regulations that will help these new councils to put the law into effect. Work began on a 10-year National Programme for Sub-National Democratic Development, and UNDP provided policy advice to the NCDD and its secretariat, as well as legal and liaison assistance and support for the development of relevant skills and knowledge.

Pending the implementation of the Organic Law, the NCDD put in place temporary arrangements under which Provincial Rural Development Committees, chaired by provincial governors, helped the C/S Councils deliver services and **infrastructure to local residents**. UNDP's support for these arrangements entailed a focus on policy development within the central government and on developing policies, processes and skills at the province and district levels that would help these tiers of government better support the C/S Councils.

Investments worth a total of \$71 million, provided by 16 donors, were implemented through the committees and their executive and technical units, with UNDP providing advice and support. The funds were spent on a range of activities including technical assistance, operations, studies and service projects. Of the total, just over \$27 million was invested in rural infrastructure, livelihood initiatives and social services. The investments were made through the C/S Councils in ways that promoted the accountability of councils as well as community participation in the selection of projects.

The \$27 million was delivered through three separate funds. First, the Commune/Sangkat Fund, which brings together funds from the Government, the World Bank, SIDA, DFID, and UNDP, accounted for \$23 million of the total. C/S Councils signed 1,540 new contracts for projects supported by this fund. Second, the District Initiative and Provincial Investment Fund, supported by SIDA, DFID, DANIDA, and UNDP, provided



Photo: UNDP/Isabelle Lesser

\$2 million worth of investments. Projects ranged from roads, schools and wells to canals, drains and latrines. A portion of the funds were used to support projects oriented toward improving natural resources and funding training events. Considerable work was undertaken to support the work of sub-national government structures and to ameliorate problems arising from increased prices, failed bidding and collusion among contractors.

Third, the fund for Inter-Commune Cooperation for Pro-Poor Projects, supported by the European Commission and UNDP, also provided \$2 million. Projects supported by this fund were designed to benefit more than one commune. Most of the projects built or rehabilitated physical infrastructure, such as roads, canals, wells and primary schools. The remainder supported services such as literacy classes and vocational training in skills including animal husbandry, food processing and silk processing. As well as encouraging broader community development, the projects have significant potential to reduce poverty. In 2008, the fund expanded its coverage from 10 provinces to 12 and the Ministry of Interior revised the guidelines to allow projects to be implemented across district boundaries. Sixty-five new projects were chosen and feasibility studies, procurement, contracting and implementation were begun. The infrastructure projects operated in a highly challenging environment, as the inflation rate spiked sharply, hitting 25 percent for building materials. A number of projects were abandoned by contractors, necessitating new assessment and procurement processes. In

Managing rural infrastructure investments helps local councilors develop skills and knowledge

“Concerning the position of women as deputy provincial and district governors, the Prime Minister is also paying attention to the low number of women in positions at municipal and provincial level.”

One of 14 recommendations made at the Annual Congress of the Cambodian National Council for Women



Photo: UNDP/Isabelle Lesser

New roads, canals, drains, schools and latrines fight rural poverty and help build social cohesion

collaboration with UNICEF, UNDP helped to establish 1,199 **Commune Committees for Women and Children** in 18 provinces, focusing on social development and advocacy and protection issues within local communities. The committees participated in the selection of new projects and acted as ex officio members of the project management committees.

As a result of a partnership with the World Bank, a new monitoring system was designed and adopted for safeguard policies on three major issues: land acquisition, environmental impact assessments, and ethnic minorities.

To strengthen the collective voice and accountability of local governments, UNDP has supported the formation of a National League of Commune/Sangkat Councils. In 2008, another 374 Councils joined the league. The league, in turn, has helped its members to form Provincial Associations of Councils. In 2008, another eight associations were formed, bringing the total to 24, one in each province. In 10 of the provincial associations, the chair or deputy president is a woman. In cooperation with the Senate and the Ministry of Interior, the league organized three regional forums and 11 district forums, providing opportunities for local representatives to raise their concerns with policy makers from Parliament and the ministries. Chairpersons of the league and a Ministry of Interior delegation attended international conferences on local government authorities in Thailand, Korea and the Philippines. Cambodia hosted a Southeast Asia Regional Workshop to share experiences

and practices with local government authorities from Indonesia, Nepal and the Netherlands.

UNDP assisted with the design of more than 30 courses on provincial and district government mechanisms which were delivered to more than 50,000 trainees. Knowledge and skills covered included the Organic Law, planning, finance, budgeting, and project management. Training in local government mechanisms was given to 6,299 people, including 1,133 women. The participants included members of C/S Councils, the Provincial Associations of C/S Councils and the National League of C/S Councils, plus members of provincial authorities, district authorities and Inter-Commune Cooperation project management committees. The National League trained 2,446 people including 516 women, from its own secretariat, the Provincial Associations and Commune Councils. As well, 2,318 provincial staff members, district authorities, district technical staff members and Inter-Commune Cooperation project management committee members, including 429 women, were trained or given refresher courses on project management.

Policy reforms will change women's lives for the better

Women in Cambodia face significant challenges to their wellbeing and dignity. Disparities between women and men are seen in women's limited access to essential services in health and education, particularly in rural areas. This results in high rates of maternal mortality and low levels of female adult literacy. Likewise, there are gender disparities in Cambodia's labour markets, politics and decision-making. Poverty is greater among women than men across all economic groups.

UNDP partners with the Ministry of Women's Affairs to support the development of policies and strategies that take inequalities between men and women into account. It works with the ministry on communication and advocacy and enhancing women's economic empowerment and their role in public decision-making at all levels. UNDP also supports the ministry on aid coordination and effectiveness and is co-facilitator of the Technical Working Group on Gender.

In 2008, the Ministry of Women's Affairs was part of the committee for the mid-term review of the

Government's National Strategic Development Plan (2006-2010), its fundamental poverty reduction plan, and worked to enhance the capacity for gender-sensitive analysis, monitoring and reporting on the plan. As a result of its advocacy, gender equality considerations were also integrated into the Organic Law on sub-national administration and the Public Financial Management Reform programme. Sectoral Gender Mainstreaming Action Groups were set up in all relevant line ministries and institutions, and the ministry supported 11 Gender Mainstreaming Action Plans. At the sub-national level of government, gender concerns were integrated into mainstream activities through networking, partnerships, training and support to institutions such as the Commune Committees for Women and Children, which UNDP supported in partnership with UNICEF.

Work on gender and governance resulted in the State Secretariat of Civil Service issuing an affirmative action guideline for civil servants requiring that 20 to 50 percent of new recruits in line ministries be women. The guideline was disseminated and discussed with a wide range of participants in 14 provinces. The Royal School of Administration decided to include gender equality and women's empowerment in its curriculum.

The Ministry of Women's Affairs worked with the National Institute of Statistics to include awareness of women's issues in the Cambodian Socio-Economic Survey for 2009 and to train staff and enumerators in analysis and awareness of potential gender bias. UNDP played a leading role in supporting the ministry in the development of the 2008 *Cambodia Gender Assessment: A Fair Share for Women*, a major piece of evidence-based research with detailed policy recommendations for all sectors. The assessment was disseminated widely at national and provincial levels. UNDP participated in the review of the Neary Rattanak II, the ministry's five-year strategic plan to improve the status of Cambodian women, and provided advisory support for Neary Rattanak III.

UNDP supports efforts to develop leadership and management skills of women civil servants and women electoral candidates. In 2008, it provided advisory services, mentoring, courses and on-the-job training, and enabled key women civil servants and decision makers to participate in



Photo: WCS/Eleanor Briggs

international and regional workshops and conferences. A Women's Civil Servants Association was set up to serve as an official forum to protect their rights and interests.

With support from UNDP, the Ministry of Women's Affairs began working with the Women's Development Center in Kampong Speu province to promote women's economic empowerment by piloting an institutionally viable and financially sustainable model of skills training and business development services for women entrepreneurs. The international Trade Center is providing assistance to the project. Market research and a value chain analysis were completed.

Marginalized people gain greater access to justice

UNDP is working to help Cambodia's **justice system** become more effective, responsive and accessible to the most marginalized in Cambodian society, especially the poor, women and indigenous peoples. The assistance supports the Government's legal and judicial reform strategy, which includes efforts to integrate the formal and informal justice systems and to strengthen mechanisms for alternative dispute resolution. The activities are a response to a comprehensive study, *Pathways to Justice for the Poor, Women and*

Poverty is greater among Cambodia women than men across all economic groups

"From now on, the Secretariat for Public Functions shall set an appropriate quota of female and male candidates who apply and take the examination for jobs in ministries and institutions."

Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen, speaking at the Annual Congress of the Cambodian National Council for Women



Photo: UNDP/Aimee Brown

Community Conversations provide forums for addressing gender issues such as domestic violence

Indigenous People, prepared in 2005 by UNDP at the Government's request. The study found that these three groups had particularly poor access to justice.

UNDP works in partnership with the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Interior. It enjoys strong support and coordination with the Ministry of Women's Affairs in the districts. The work is funded by the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation and UNDP, and implemented in partnership with Legal Aid of Cambodia and the Community Legal Education Center.

UNDP supports the Government in three ways: providing **alternative dispute resolution services** through new local initiatives known as Commune Dispute Resolution Committees and Maisons de la Justice; empowering communities to take actions and decisions from within through a process called Community Conversations; and developing awareness and acceptance of the customary rules of indigenous peoples and addressing the challenges they face.

In 2008, 36 new committees were established, bringing the total to 56, and 16 new Maisons were established, bringing the total to 20. These new institutions are designed to bridge the gap between existing local dispute resolution mechanisms and the formal justice system. Parties to a dispute may take it to mediation at a committee, which comprises commune leaders working in a voluntary capacity, or to a Maison, which is staffed by two officers who provide free mediation services and basic legal information and advice.

Cases that fall outside the jurisdiction of the Maisons are referred to the formal legal system. The members of the committees and officers of the Maisons receive continued training in alternative dispute resolution skills, fundamental rights, and basic legal concepts, particularly those concerning domestic violence and divorce.

A majority of cases are brought by women and relate to marriage, defamation, inheritance, land and debt disputes. In 2008, 1192 disputes were submitted to the committees, including 572 related to land disputes and 108 to divorces. Others related to issues such as inheritance and breaches of contract. Of these 1192 cases, 509 were successfully mediated, 77 were mediated but not resolved, and 34 were referred to other bodies. In the same period, 597 disputes were submitted to the Maisons, of which 396 related to land disputes and 15 to divorces. Of the 597 cases, 85 were successfully mediated, 32 were not resolved, and 23 were referred to other bodies.

As well as supporting alternative dispute resolution activities, UNDP supports Legal Aid of Cambodia, a national legal aid NGO, in providing legal representation for women in the formal justice system. In 2008, women were represented by lawyers from Legal Aid of Cambodia in 88 cases in three provinces. By the end of the year, 24 of these cases were closed and 64 were continuing.

Community Conversations are monthly forums where villagers discuss issues related to family and gender relations, particularly addressing the issue of domestic violence. The discussions are led by village facilitators trained in the methodology of Community Capacity Enhancement, a package of tools that includes community mapping, story-telling and analyzing problems through diagrams.

An estimated 20 percent of Cambodian women suffer domestic violence, yet it has long been considered an internal family matter and remains a taboo subject for many people. Community Conversations are an important starting point for engagement at the local level on a serious problem in Cambodian society today. In 2008, monthly Community Conversations were operating in 77 villages in three provinces, led by 231 village facilitators and with the participation of 287 members of support groups. Half of both the village facilitators and the members of the support groups were women.

To promote access to justice for Cambodia's **indigenous peoples**, UNDP supports training for indigenous villagers in human rights and awareness of the law, and provides access to forums to discuss issues of concern. The activities are centred on 12 indigenous villages, eight in Rattanakiri Province and four in Mondulakiri Province. The training is provided by Community Legal Education Center with technical support from UNDP and the Government.

In 2008, approximately 180 villagers, including chiefs, elders and women's groups, were given training on indigenous people's rights and laws including, particularly important sections of the Cambodian land and forestry laws. As well, 24 traditional authorities were given training in alternative dispute resolution skills to strengthen their roles in mediating domestic conflicts, negotiating with outsiders, and navigating the court process.

Peace Table meetings, managed in partnership with Community Legal Education Center and local authorities, provide forums for indigenous people to come together with provincial officials, police, court representatives, and other stakeholders to discuss issues of importance to indigenous people, such as land conflicts. Starting in 2008, the Peace Tables resulted in the return of more than 1000 hectares of land to indigenous communities. The land included agricultural land, spirit forests and cemeteries that were important to the collective identity of indigenous people. Even so, the cases mediated represented only a tiny proportion of the land under dispute. Community Legal Education Center also provides legal representation to indigenous people if they become involved in the formal justice system in cases of land disputes involving private companies or individuals. In 2008, representation was provided in six cases.

To encourage national awareness and acceptance of indigenous customary rules, six villages participated in research that recorded their long-term practices, rules, identity, land and rights. The findings of the research were published and nearly 500 people, including senators, judges, law students and provincial officials, were given presentations on indigenous peoples' livelihood systems, customary rules and traditional conflict resolution systems.



Land in Koh Peak Commune included the Kreung villagers' farms and graveyards

Peace Table helps mediate land dispute

The villagers were surprised, confused, and very soon worried. They believed they had given a local businessman a concession of 10 hectares of their land, but the amount being cleared seemed much larger. First, they stopped the tractors, then they appealed to a local non-governmental organization for help. Eventually, the issue came to a Peace Table, a forum for mediating land disputes involving Cambodia's indigenous peoples.

Eight Peace Tables were held in 2008, resulting in the return of more than 1000 hectares of land to traditional owners. This dispute centred on land controlled by the Kreung people in two villages in Voeun Sai District, Rattanakiri Province. The Peace Table was chaired by the Provincial Governor of Rattanakiri, with the assistance of conciliators from the Cambodia Legal Education Center and UNDP.

The businessman told the Peace Table he believed he had obtained 500 hectares of the villagers' land to plant rubber and cassava. He had spoken first to the District Governor of Voeun Sai, who spoke to the Commune Chief, who in turn spoke to the village chiefs and elders. As go-between, the District Governor gave the elders \$3000, which the businessman understood to be payment for the land.

The elders said they had agreed verbally to concede 10 hectares and had put their thumb prints on a blank piece of paper, which later became a contract of sale for 500 hectares. They believed the businessman planned to build a factory to process cassava, which they could grow for him on their land. They said they did not understand the purpose of the \$3,000 payment, so they just kept the money. The businessman said he had invested \$10,000 to create jobs. But the villagers did not want the jobs, and he did not want the headache, so he would be satisfied to get his \$3,000 back.

After hearing the discussions at the Peace Table, the Provincial Governor decided that the villagers should repay the \$3,000 and the clearing should stop. The villagers regained control of their land, which included a cemetery and their farms.

Poverty Reduction



Photo: WCS/Eleanor Briggs

Thirty percent of Cambodians live below the poverty line. The rural poor are most vulnerable to food and job insecurity

The Challenge

Cambodia has achieved impressive growth over the past decade, yet the gains have not been evenly shared. **Social inequality** is increasing, and 30 percent of people still live below the poverty line. Marginalized groups, particularly the rural poor, women and indigenous minorities, are vulnerable to food and job insecurity, and suffer from unequal access to education and health services. Rural development is impeded by land mines and other explosive remnants of war, which contaminate nearly 700 sq km of land.

Cambodia also has great **untapped business potential**, but many producers are cut off from markets by poor rural roads, expensive transport, poor communications, lack of start-up capital, and ignorance of customer preferences and market prices. Even those with viable products and willing buyers are often unable to scale up production or capture the value that could be added by further processing.

Cambodia is one of the most **aid-dependent** countries in the world, with 40 percent of the Government's budget coming from donors.

Coordinating, targeting and monitoring this aid is essential for maximum impact. Similarly, the Government is seeking to broaden policy responses to new challenges, including those posed by integration into the world economy and the possibility of large but temporary revenues from a local oil and gas industry.

UNDP's Response

Aiming to achieve the over-arching Millennium Development Goal of halving poverty between 2000 and 2015, UNDP supports the Government and the private sector in their efforts to devise new policy responses, build **social capital** and **increase livelihood options**.

UNDP supports the Government to put its trade policy into practice. By promoting local business initiatives and networks, it helps small producers to work together on improving their products and finding markets. As well as supporting mine clearance, it helps to ensure that demined land is allocated to the people most in need.

UNDP helps the Government to develop its ability to coordinate and manage foreign aid

and respond to new economic opportunities. It generates policy options that will enable the Government to make the most of economic opportunities, including membership of the World Trade Organization and new extractive industries.

In particular, UNDP has strengths in analyzing the knowledge and skills needed for this work, and identifying how people and organizations can increase their expertise. UNDP's knowhow in this field is proving valuable as UN agencies and development partners make the transition to programme-based approaches to development.

Key Achievements of 2008

- The Ministry of Commerce was supported in developing the objectives and monitoring plan for the new Sector-Wide Approach to trade, the Trade SWAp
- The Ministry of Commerce conducted value chain analyses to identify products with high potential for commercialization. Producers' associations were formed to help members gain access to finance, training, market information and customers
- The the Council for the Development of Cambodia's aid management unit, the Cambodian Rehabilitation and Development Board, produced the second Cambodia Aid Effectiveness Report and developed a comprehensive plan for developing knowledge and skills
- An international conference on the potential for an oil and gas industry to reduce poverty facilitated information sharing and cooperation between developing countries
- 6.78 sq km of land affected by land mines and explosive remnants of war was cleared
- The Cambodian Mine Action Centre removed and destroyed 8,925 anti-personnel mines, 220 anti-tank mines, and 34,137 pieces of unexploded ordnance with UNDP support
- The Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority drew up further standards and increased its monitoring of operations by licensed demining operators



Photo: UNDP/Cyrus Cornut

Exports will boost incomes, create jobs for Cambodians

International trade offers opportunities for Cambodia to develop in ways that will generate revenue, diversify the economy and create jobs. Indeed, **exports** account for 80 per cent of Cambodia's GDP, and show promise for future growth. UNDP supports Cambodia's efforts to make the most of its membership of the World Trade Organization and to become integrated into the world economy.

Cambodia and its development partners are committed to a Sector-Wide Approach to trade, known as the **Trade SWAp**, which aims to harmonize donors' efforts and increase the effectiveness of their aid. The heart of the Trade SWAp is the 2007 Diagnostic for Trade Integration Strategy, which was developed by the Ministry of Commerce with UNDP support. This strategy identifies 19 priority products and services with export potential, including garments, footwear, rice, rubber, fish, wood products, and tourism. It also identifies export markets in Asia, the Middle East, former Soviet Union countries and Africa.

With the strategy as a blueprint, UNDP worked with the Ministry of Commerce to develop Cambodia's capacity to supply products and services

Silk has been identified as a priority product in Cambodia's trade strategy and is being developed for export

"Our producers must learn to boost productivity and lower unit costs at home by embracing new technologies and making more efficient use of better trained workers."

His Excellency Cham Prasidh, Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce



MoC/ Sopheak Lim

Villagers have found it difficult to capture the value of investing their time in making prahok

Old ingredient provides key to new business

Prahok, a fermented salt fish paste, is the essential flavour of Khmer cuisine. It is as Cambodian as wine is French, soy sauce is Chinese, olive oil is Italian and ketchup is American. And for centuries, the premier prahok has been the white, boneless version produced by families in Kampong Khlaing commune on the Tonle Sap Lake. They fillet the tiny Try Kompleng fish, salt the flesh, ferment it for three months, and pound it to a paste by treading it like wine grapes.

Yet production has waned: only about 20 of the nearly 2,000 households in the poor commune near Siem Reap still produce it. Many find it easier and more profitable to sell the fish in bulk to wholesalers who sell it over the border in Thailand. Even if they do invest their time and effort in making prahok, middlemen capture most of the added value.

The Ministry of Commerce's TRADE Project, with support from UNDP, aims to turn this situation around. In 2008, the villagers started the process of forming the Kampong Khlaing Prahok Association, which will help members to improve sanitary standards, access micro-finance, devise a marketing strategy, and commission the design of packaging and logos.

The prahok will be promoted under the "One Village, One Product" programme, and will receive a mark under the new Geographical Indications system that will guarantee the authenticity of its origins.

Mr Tui Nheam, 59, a commune chief, said the association would provide a safety net and form a unified voice in the district's fishing communities. "The fishermen and prahok makers will be able to get more bucks for their fish. Higher incomes will improve their living conditions."

Secretary of State Mr Mao Thora, who leads the TRADE Project, said the Ministry wants to develop relationships with rural communities to establish more agro-business associations. "The associations will promote local products and increase production, so that poor villagers generate higher incomes."

for export, and to develop the knowledge and skills needed for managing the Trade SWAp. Objectives and monitoring plans for the Trade SWAp were developed, and the Ministry of Commerce and other line ministries strengthened their management capacities at three levels: institutions, systems and individuals. The new Department of International Cooperation received guidance and coaching to help it fulfill its functions as the Secretariat to the Trade SWAp and the coordinator of all Aid for Trade.

An assessment in four departments of the Ministry of Commerce produced an innovative plan for developing skills and knowledge that will be duplicated in the other ministries active in the Trade SWAp. The study also generated baselines that will be used to track the implementation of the plan. The work attracted international attention: Nepal and Lao PDR sent official delegations to learn from Cambodia's experience in trade development. UNDP developed a policy paper, Making the Trade Sector-Wide Approach (SWAp) Coordination Work.

Building on the Trade Strategy's list of 19 priority products, UNDP supported a series of consultations in three rural areas that identified **key products** to be supported. Value chain analyses were developed for cassava, soy beans, corn and prahok (fermented fish paste) and local producers' associations were identified for future assistance. UNDP helped to establish provincial dialogues between the public and private sectors to raise issues encountered by representatives of the local product sectors and business associations, and to identify how the relevant provincial branches of line ministries could respond to those needs. Rice producers and millers from six provinces joined a Ministry of Commerce mission to Senegal, which is a major trade hub for western and central Africa. As a result, Senegal expressed interest in importing 3,000 tonnes of rice from Cambodia.

Mobile phones connect rural producers to new markets

In the Cambodian countryside, poor roads and lack of communications infrastructure make it difficult for farmers to get the best prices for their products. One response to this is the **Village Phone Initiative**, an innovative scheme supported by UNDP in partnership with GTZ, which

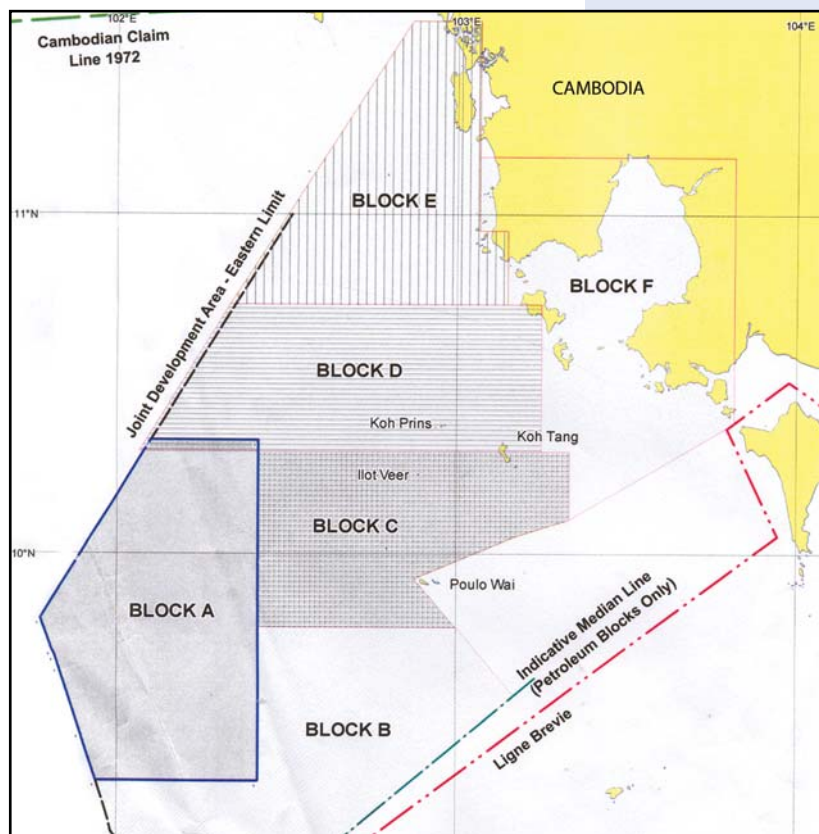
has expanded the mobile telephone network to reach rural people who would otherwise miss out. In 2008, management of the Village Phone Initiative was taken over by a new private company. Under their leadership, some 1200 rural entrepreneurs bought new SIM cards and mobile phones to provide better communications access for community members. The phone enterprise provides a new source of income for the operators, most of whom were already operating small businesses such as retail stalls for fruit and vegetables. Some 90 percent of the operators are women, and most use the profits to improve their businesses or send their children to school.

Many of the village phone operators also became involved in a parallel opportunity, the Yellow Pages Information Booths, which enables phone operators both to connect potential customers with local providers of goods and services and to recruit new listings for the Yellow Pages business information service. UNDP supported the establishment of these "I-booths", and also facilitated links between Yellow Pages and the Canadian Agricultural Market Information Project, which provides local daily fruit and vegetable prices through an automated SMS callback service. The operators thus provide a valuable service by boosting the flow of market information.

UNDP also supported a successful national conference on Corporate Social Responsibility where the report *Creating Value for All: Strategies for Doing Business with the Poor* was launched. Produced by UNDP's Growing Inclusive Markets initiative, the report showcases 50 case studies demonstrating the successful pursuit of both revenues and social impact by local and international small- and medium-sized companies, as well as multinational corporations.

Research gives Government greater policy options

To support the Government's poverty reduction strategy, UNDP produces cutting-edge policy research and analysis in areas that are key to achieving the Cambodia Millennium Development Goals. It addresses national priorities by providing leading edge knowledge as well as platforms to turn ideas into action. One such



priority is the possibility of oil and gas discoveries, which hold the promise of revenues to help Cambodia tackle poverty.

In 2008, a high-level international conference, *Fuelling Poverty Reduction with Oil and Gas Revenues: Comparative Country Experiences*, focused on both technical knowledge and the economic, social and environmental implications of petroleum exploitation for developing countries. The forum was organized by UNDP in partnership with the Cambodian National Petroleum Authority (CNPA), the Supreme National Economic Council (SNEC), the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, the Norwegian Petroleum Directorate and the Norwegian Government foundation Petrad. The analysis and discussion proved particularly relevant to policy makers from other developing countries with natural resources, including representatives from Timor-Leste, Mongolia, and São Tomé and Príncipe.

Officials from the Ministry of Economics and Finance, the CNPA and the SNEC took part in a study tour, funded by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, which focused on the issue of Competence Building on Petroleum Funds and included discussion of the Extractive

Revenue generated from petroleum reserves discovered off the coast of Cambodia has the potential to dramatically decrease poverty.

"It was more than just a training; it was about sharing experiences and building relationships."

**Nuth Monyath,
Policy Officer
at Cambodian
Rehabilitation
and Development
Board of the
Council for the
Development of
Cambodia, speaking
at the March
conference on oil
and gas**



Photo: UNDP/Isabelle Lesser

Weavers in Rattanakiri could turn their craft into an industry supplying international tourists

Creative arts hold promise as exports

Traditional arts once flourished throughout Cambodia, but were almost destroyed by the Khmer Rouge during the 1970s. Today, many crafts and performance arts are on the verge of disappearing. Even though tourism offers a ready market, artists find it hard to sustain themselves solely through their work in an industry dominated by foreign ownership and international tour operators.

A new effort to link tourism with Cambodia's creative industries was launched in 2008. The programme is a collaboration led by four ministries - Culture and Fine Arts; Commerce; Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries; and Industry, Mines and Energy - in partnership with UNESCO, ILO, FAO and UNDP. Focusing on four provinces - Rattanakiri, Mondulakiri, Kampong Thom and Preah Vihear - it aims to revive Cambodia's cultural assets, promote economic growth, create jobs and alleviate poverty.

The programme has special potential to strengthen the cultural identities of Cambodia's ethnic minorities and empower women, who make up the majority of Cambodia's cultural workers. Many of these industries are traditionally home-based and characterized by low incomes for producers and high margins for middlemen and traders. A key step is thus to upgrade the value chains to ensure that the producers receive a fair share of the benefits.

UNDP in partnership with the Ministry of Commerce will coordinate provincial public and private dialogues to enable local government to better understand and respond to issues faced by the private sector. It will also use value chain analyses to choose products and services with promise for commercialization. These will be the focus of efforts to implement trade legislation and export procedures in a streamlined fashion.

Industries Transparency Initiative. The Initiative for Policy Dialogue at Columbia University granted UNDP permission to translate into Khmer and publish the book *Ensuring a Resource Blessing*, by Nobel Laureate Dr Joseph E. Stiglitz.

UNDP partnered with the SNEC to prepare the report *Cambodia Country Competitiveness: Driving Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction*, an analysis of the challenges facing Cambodia in the face of the global financial crisis. The research drew on consultative workshops with nine ministries and more than 40 development partners and private sector representatives. The SNEC, with UNDP support, prepared research on the labour market and youth unemployment. The Ministry of Planning led discussions at province, district and commune level on the Cambodia *Human Development Report 2007: Expanding Choices for Rural People*, which was published with support from UNDP.

Coordination increases aid effectiveness

Cambodia is heavily dependent on external development assistance, with a major share of its development budget provided by donors. Aid is also highly fragmented, with relatively low coordination among donors compared with other aid-dependent countries. UNDP partners with Australia, Canada, DFID and New Zealand to support the Cambodian Rehabilitation and Development Board at the Council for the Development of Cambodia, the Government body for the coordination and mobilization of development assistance. The board works with line ministries and agencies and development partners including bilateral donors, multilateral agencies and international non-governmental organizations.

The board presented the 2008 Cambodia Aid Effectiveness Report at the second Cambodian Development Cooperation Forum, strengthening its ability to lead policy discussion on aid effectiveness. It hosted a peer learning exchange on aid management where emerging Cambodian good practice was shared with colleagues from Vietnam, Lao PDR, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea. The board also shared Cambodia's work with Lao PDR and Vietnam on the Joint Initiative

on Mutual Accountability at the Third High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness held in Accra by the OECD-Development Assistance Committee, which monitors progress made on implementation of the 2005 Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness.

Demined land comes back to people who need it most

After nearly three decades of internal conflict, Cambodia remains severely affected by **landmines** and **explosive remnants of war**. The deadly legacy means that in nearly 700 sq km of rural land, crops cannot be grown, roads and wells cannot be built, and children cannot go to school. To address the significant development challenges posed by this contamination, Cambodia has adopted a special ninth Millennium Development Goal to clear all affected land, reduce the casualty rate to zero, and improve survivor assistance. UNDP supports mine action through demining, the development of mine action standards, and the monitoring of all demining operations in Cambodia. It manages the activities with funding from Australia, Canada, Spain, Adopt-a-Minefield, and UNDP.

The Cambodian Mine Action Centre cleared a total of **6.78 sq km** of land with UNDP funds in 2008, removing and destroying 8,935 anti-personnel mines, 220 anti-tank mines and 34,137 pieces of unexploded ordnance. About 60 percent of the land was cleared for agriculture or resettlement, 20 percent for community roads, and 20 percent for schools, irrigation channels, pagodas and other uses.

The Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority, the official mine action oversight body, drew up further Cambodian Mine Action Standards and doubled to four the number of quality assurance teams that monitor whether all mine clearance operators are working safely and effectively. In total, the teams visited 914 mine action activities, a 600 percent increase on 2007.

Clearance planning guidelines were modified to ensure that both women and men from mine-affected communities are consulted in the planning process, which aims to ensure that the highest-priority land is cleared first, and village



Photo: UNDP/Nathan Horton

chiefs were trained on the changes. Cambodia also participated in the international gender workshop in Italy to follow up on the 2007 Nairobi Gender and Mine Action Conference.

Cambodia was heavily involved in the Oslo process to **ban cluster munitions**, but it is still studying the implications of signing. The Convention on Cluster Munitions prohibits all use, stockpiling, production and transfer of cluster munitions. Obligations in the convention concern assistance to victims, clearance of contaminated areas and destruction of stockpiles.

At the global level, UNDP facilitated Cambodia's participation at every international meeting throughout the process. To spread the word in Cambodia about the international treaty to ban cluster munitions, awareness activities were conducted in provinces affected by landmines and explosive remnants of war, as well as in the capital, Phnom Penh.

A Cluster Munitions Ban Bus toured affected communities and the capital. The bus visited communities affected by cluster munitions, as well as rehabilitation centres and pagodas in Kratie and Kampong Cham, two of the worst-affected provinces, before making a tour around Phnom Penh. Travelers on the Ban Bus raised awareness about efforts under way to ban these indiscriminate weapons, collected signatures for the People's Treaty to Ban Cluster Munitions, and learned directly from people living in affected communities about the unacceptable harm these weapons cause to civilians.

A monk talks about the treaty to ban cluster munitions during the ban bus visit to Wat Phnom in Phnom Penh

"Everyone should stop using and distributing cluster bombs because they are still hurting people in my village nearly 40 years after they were dropped here."

Mrs Mouen San, 53, a resident of a village in Kratie Province whose son was injured by a cluster bomb

Environment and Energy



Photo: WCS/Elyssa Kellerman

Conservation in the Northern Plains is helping to preserve wildlife and improve lives

The Challenge

Cambodia is blessed with a **rich natural environment**. The central plains are watered by the great freshwater systems of the Mekong River and the Tonle Sap, and the Northern Plains and low mountain ranges to the east and south-west contain some of the best preserved landscapes in Southeast Asia. Cambodia also has a proud tradition of protecting its landscapes. Nearly a quarter of the country has been designated as conservation areas, and the Tonle Sap was designated a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve by in 1997.

Yet this heritage is **under pressure** from several factors. Some 80 percent of Cambodians live in rural areas, depending for their livelihoods on subsistence farming and foods foraged from lakes and forests. But centuries of rice cultivation have depleted soil fertility and erosion has degraded the land. Faced with food insecurity, the rural poor rely increasingly on common property resources, running down their productive capacity through over-use and threatening their biodiversity. At the same time, there are concerns that some forests and fisheries are

being used for quick profits, in the process damaging ecosystems and further marginalizing the poor.

Meanwhile, climate change threatens to have long-term consequences for efforts to fight poverty. Cambodia is one of the most vulnerable countries in Southeast Asia, with possible impacts on agriculture, coastal zones, water resources and health. Cambodia is also committed to protecting the ozone layer by phasing out consumption of ozone-depleting gases, and to finding local solutions to problems with a global dimension, such as land degradation and desertification.

UNDP's response

UNDP recognizes that poverty reduction, economic development, sustainable land use and biodiversity conservation are intricately connected. It is active at several levels, including working with the Government to integrate sustainable development into national policies on land management and climate change. UNDP also supports the Government's efforts to

conserve particular biodiversity “hot spots”, such as the Tonle Sap and the Northern Plains, and helps communities to solve problems of water, energy and farm productivity through its management of the Global Environment Facility’s Small Grants Programme.

Key Achievements in 2008

- Enhanced management of biodiversity conservation sites resulted in increased populations of several critically endangered species
- Participatory land use planning was finalized in four communities in the Northern Plains
- Communal development plans integrated biodiversity management and alternative livelihoods including ecotourism management training and vegetable growing on floating garden beds
- More than 400 rangers, government staff and community members were trained in skills including mapping, law enforcement and wildlife survey techniques
- 63 Community Based Natural Resource Management sites involved more than 66,000 community members in local management of natural resources
- 305 community savings groups with more than 6000 members were established and strengthened to undertake small business and livelihood activities
- Work began on integrating sustainable land management systems into national policies
- The Climate Change Office completed an inventory of greenhouse gases and an assessment of climate change vulnerability
- Consumption of ozone-depleting gases was cut by 2.55 tonnes

Community involvement helps protect species, cut poverty

The Northern Plains of Cambodia are the largest remaining extensive intact block of a unique landscape that is of exceptional global importance for biodiversity conservation. Dominated by open deciduous forest, grasslands and seasonal wetlands, the plains are home to threatened large mammals, including the Asian elephant, tiger, leopard, Eld’s deer, wild cattle, and globally endangered birds, including the white-shouldered Ibis, sarus crane, and three species of vultures. For more than 40 species



Photo: WCS/Elyssa Kellerman

on the IUCN Red List, it is either a last refuge or home to a key population.

Though sparsely settled, the Northern Plains are under pressure from commercial and subsistence agricultural expansion, illegal logging, collection of eggs and chicks of threatened bird species, land consolidation by powerful interests, building of new roads, and professional and opportunistic wildlife hunting, such as trapping of long-tailed macaques for the captive breeding trade.

UNDP’s efforts aim to alleviate this pressure and reduce rural poverty by conserving forests and fisheries, ensuring that land is used in a sustainable way and giving local communities secure access to natural resources. The partnership of UNDP and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, the Ministry of Environment, and the Wildlife Conservation Society has brought better synergies with other donor initiatives, such as those by DFID, DANIDA, and the World Bank. The work encompasses more than 400,000 hectares of dry forest including Kulen Promtep Wildlife Sanctuary and Preah Vihear Protected Forest. The partners work at the landscape level to integrate biodiversity values into land-use planning, an approach that is recognized as more effective for conserving large, wide-ranging species and large areas of forest than approaches that focus on single sites.

Community members are engaged through **incentive schemes** and **village agreements** on protecting forests, conserving wildlife and managing protected areas. Where land-use planning has been finalized and community zone boundaries

The lesser adjutant crane finds a safe haven in Cambodia’s northern plains

“Now I understand that all must try and help protect the natural resources, and I will try to bring this message back to my people and change their attitude that the natural resources are not unlimited.”

Mr Dib On, who accepted the Equator Prize for ecotourism on behalf of Tmatboey community in Preah Vihear province



Photo: UNDP/Isabelle Lesser

Raising fish in cages allows families on the Tonle Sap to avoid over-fishing the lake

have been marked, local incomes have increased and land-grabbing issues have been resolved. In 2008, 6,710 hectares of land were demarcated to be used by the communities of Tmatboey and Dangphlat.

Eco-tourism is providing valuable alternative, sustainable livelihoods for many. In 2008, the Tmatboey village Ibis Eco-Tourism initiative, in Kulen Promtep Wildlife Sanctuary, won the prestigious Equator Award, following on from the Wild Asia Responsible Eco-Tourism Award in 2007. Safari tents were bought for Dangphlat village for the season in Preah Vihear Protected Forest, where eco-tourists can watch rare vultures fed at “vulture restaurants”.

The **Bird Nest Protection Scheme** resulted in an increase in nests of globally threatened bird species next from 166 nests in 2004 to 365 nests in 2008. Villagers who once used to collect eggs for sale through middlemen who trade with Thai and Lao border markets are offered a reward for reporting nests of threatened bird species and employed to monitor and protect the birds until chicks successfully fledge. While the scheme is extremely inexpensive compared with other conservation options, costing an average of \$110 nest, the amounts paid to individual community members can be greater than \$400 a year – a substantial sum in an area where family incomes average about \$350 a year. Work continued on a wildlife-friendly rice production scheme which will pay a premium for rice purchased from farmers who respect agreed land-use plans. This premium is obtained by marketing the rice to hotels and tourists in Siem Reap and elsewhere in Cambodia.

In 2008, training was given to 280 people, including 70 women, 48 government staff and 218 members of local NGOs, civil society organizations and community-based organizations. The courses included tourism service provision, commune planning, natural resource management, financial management and agricultural techniques, as well as law enforcement monitoring, and **wildlife survey techniques**. The 48 government staff, including 39 rangers, were trained in Management Information System (MIST), use of the Geographic Information System (GIS), community development and patrolling.

New livelihoods help preserve biodiversity in key waterway

The **Tonle Sap** in central Cambodia is the largest permanent freshwater body in Southeast Asia. Designated a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in 1997, it is a seasonal breeding, nursery and feeding ground for fish and large water birds and a last refuge for some globally threatened species. The Tonle Sap is also home to about 3 million people, many of whom derive at least part of their subsistence needs or income from the lake’s resources. About half of all the fish caught in Cambodia come from community fisheries and commercial fishing lots in the Tonle Sap. But overexploitation of forests, fish and wildlife resources, encroachment, land clearing and invasion by exotic species are now threatening this unique ecosystem.

UNDP worked in partnership with the Cambodia National Mekong Committee, the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, the Global Environment Facility, the Asian Development Bank, UN Volunteers and UNDP. The work focused on three core areas that are rich in biodiversity and have been gazetted as protected areas – Prek Toal, Stung Sen and Boeung Tonle Chhmar.

In 2008, 90 percent of **boundary demarcation** was completed, **management plans** for the three conservation areas were drawn up and five management centres were built. As well, 162 rangers, managers, and field staff were given training in mapping, Global Positioning Systems, English, and database and management skills. Some 52 rangers and custodians were given support and training in regulations and law enforcement in the core areas. Wildlife monitoring

included assessments of water bird colonies and water snake harvesting, and the annual census of the vulnerable sarus crane.

About 2,100 poor families living in the core areas, more than 60 percent of whom are women, benefited directly from support for **alternative livelihoods**, including growing organic vegetables in floating gardens, producing mushroom spawn and raising fish in cages. Twenty-two savings groups, made up of 547 people including 515 women, helped about 86 percent of the families living on and near the lake to buy fuel-efficient cooking stoves and ceramic water purifiers. These simple appliances helped the families to reduce their dependence on cutting fuel wood from the jungle and lowered their risk of contracting diarrheal diseases by drinking water direct from the lake.

Nearly 10,000 people living in the biosphere reserve were reached by a **community outreach** programme on the topic of water and energy. In addition, curriculum materials such as a Teacher Manual and Activity Guide on environmental awareness targeting primary and lower secondary schools around the Tonle Sap were finalized and launched. Support continued for the environmental education centres, and new signboards were installed on entry roads to make visitors aware they are entering the biosphere reserve.

New vision for land management aims to combat degradation

One approach to Cambodia's environmental challenges is **sustainable land management**, an internationally reconized approach to combating land degradation and desertification. It is a knowledge-based procedure that helps to integrate land, water, biodiversity and environmental management into policies and practices in ways that respond to rising food demands while sustaining livelihoods and eco-systems' services. In 2008, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) partnered with UNDP to launch a new effort to strengthen the enabling environment for sustainable land management, while ensuring broad-based political and community support for the process.

A team drawn from MAFF and the Ministry of Environment began work on updating and expanding Cambodia's National Action Plan to Promote Sustainable Land Management. A



Photo: UNDP/Isabelle Lesser

national conference drew some 60 participants to discuss Combating Land Degradation for Sustainable Agriculture, an issue with particular resonance for Cambodia. The team also began to gather data on land degradation to serve as the basis for integrating sustainable land management approaches into national and regional policies and planning. Awareness of the principles of the approach was raised through the National Forestry Programme and the draft Land Management Policy.

To demonstrate the benefits of the approach, the team shared simple commune-level tools that helped local leaders assess land degradation and best practices with the agriculture staff in two provinces. National and local government officers received training in commune agro-ecosystem analysis. Consultations and study tours focused on issues including the value of engaging women and children in using and managing natural resources.

Cambodia gets ready to fight and adapt to climate change

Global warming poses many challenges for Cambodia. Possible effects of rising global temperatures include changing weather patterns, more frequent extreme climatic events such as floods and droughts, and a rising prevalence of

Small projects allow communities to find local solutions to global problems

"The amount of land used for growing rice grew from 448,780 ha in 2002 to 2.6 million ha in 2007. This shows that we have paid close attention to the improvement and management of agricultural land in the last few years."

**His Excellency
Lim Sokun, Secretary
of State for MAFF
speaking on
World Day to Combat
Desertification**



Photo: UNDP

The rural poor are the most vulnerable to the effects of climate change

tropical diseases, including malaria and dengue fever. Cambodia's long coast is also vulnerable to sea-level rises, coastal erosion and sea water intrusion. It is expected that the effects will be felt first, and worst, in the livelihoods and food security of the rural poor.

As a party to the Kyoto Protocol and to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Cambodia has international obligations to collect and share information on national climate change activities. UNDP partners with the Global Environment Facility to support the work.

In 2008, the Cambodian Climate Change Office in the Ministry of Environment completed key sections of Cambodia's Second National Communication to the Convention of Parties of the UNFCCC, including the inventory of greenhouse gases. This assembled emissions data from key sectors in Cambodia, including energy, agriculture, industrial processes, waste, land use change and forestry. The report also looks at key vulnerable sectors, namely agriculture, water resources, human health and the coastal zone and seeks to identify measures to build the resilience of these sectors to climate change.

The Vulnerability and Adaptation (V&A) Thematic Working Group held a workshop on V&A assessment and selected software suitable for Cambodia. A V&A survey was developed and field-tested in eastern Prey Veng Province, which was identified as the province most vulnerable to extreme climate events. Preparatory work continued on programmes containing measures to help Cambodia adapt to climate change and lessen its impact.

Phasing out refrigerants will stem damage to ozone layer

Cambodia is working to scale down its use of chlorofluorocarbon gases (CFCs), which deplete the protective ozone layer around the earth's atmosphere. In Cambodia, CFCs are most commonly used in refrigeration and air-conditioning systems. As a party to both the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol, Cambodia cut its consumption of CFCs from 94 Ozone Depleting Potential (ODP) tonnes in the baseline year of 2002 to 12 ODP tonnes in 2007. Cambodia is committed to eliminating consumption of virgin CFCs by 2010 and ensuring that they are not reintroduced. The National Ozone Unit in the Ministry of Environment is tackling this challenge in partnership with UNDP, the UN Environment Programme, and the UNDP Multilateral Fund.

Strategies include retrofitting vehicles with Mobile Air Conditioning systems that use non-ozone depleting gases, training technicians, cooperating with the Ministry of Public Works and Transport to prevent registration of vehicles with systems using CFC-12, and working with Customs and Excise and Camcontrol to prevent the illegal cross-border trade in such vehicles.

In 2008, 974 cars were retrofitted and about 2.55 ODP tonnes of CFC-12 were recovered and recycled with UNDP support. The National Ozone Unit conducted refresher training for 41 technicians from 23 garages and at other vocational training centres. Preparations began for the formation of an Industrial Refrigerant Association.

Community action for a better life also benefits environment

On behalf of the Global Environment Facility partnership, UNDP manages the GEF Small Grants Programme (GEF-SGP), which funds **community-level projects** that address global issues while supporting sustainable development.

In 2008, with \$570,000 from the Global Environment Facility and \$540,000 from UNDP, the GEF-SGP funded 37 new projects aimed at conserving biodiversity and international waters, mitigating climate change and adapting to its effects, and preventing land degradation. The programme increased its co-financing with other small grants donors including Fauna and Flora International and Oxfam Great Britain.

To develop social capital, 26 new local farmers' associations were linked to the national farmers' network, and 65 new village-level savings groups were established.

The projects were aimed at promoting the sustainable use of resources while improving livelihoods, especially for people who live inside protected areas and biodiversity hot spots. Initiatives ranged from conserving natural lakes and community fisheries to tree planting and community forestry. Environment-friendly handicraft skills in danger of dying out were conserved.

Under the international waters conservation project, which is linked to the regional South China Sea Project, two community-based organizations in Kampot Province replanted 40 ha of mangrove trees and conserved 200 ha of existing mangroves and 40ha of sea grass beds. More than 700 members of community fisheries committees were engaged in the work, developing skills in management and leadership as well as technical knowledge of mangrove conservation.

Climate change mitigation focused on reducing greenhouse gas emissions through helping communities adopt technologies for energy efficiency and renewable energy. These included 200 biogas digesters for converting animal manure into gas and 2,886 fuel-efficient cooking stoves. Four battery recharge stations that use solar panels rather than generators and eight windmills for pumping water were installed. To ease pressure on natural stands of trees, 90,000 fast-growing trees were planted for firewood.

Climate change adaptation focused on the Water for Life and Water for Livelihoods programme which reached 47,860 families in 247 villages in 14 provinces. A total of 10,928 ceramic water purifiers were distributed, mainly to families around the Tonle Sap; 1,850 rainwater harvesting systems were installed; and eight natural lakes, 293 wells, 30 ponds and reservoirs, and five canals or irrigation ditches were built or rehabilitated.

To combat soil degradation, farmers were encouraged to use a range of farming techniques, including the System of Rice Intensification, a technique for transplanting rice seedlings that uses fewer seedlings and increases yields, and organic farming techniques such as fish ponds and vegetables gardens. More than 8,000 trees were planted, and integrated pest management, composting of manure and green waste, drip irrigation and agro-forestry were encouraged.



Reliable fish stocks have boosted food security and increased families' incomes.

Community lake saves the life of a village

The verdant paddies and lotus ponds surrounding Peam Chhrey village suggest a life of ease and plenty, but the lush landscape masks a harsh reality - this is a land where, until a few years ago, people lived each day stalked by hunger and fear.

On this island in the Tonle Sap River in Kampong Chhnang Province, people depend heavily on the lakes and their once bountiful harvest of fish. But by 2006, over-fishing had almost exhausted stocks and desperate families had resorted to electrocuting fish with wires strung from car batteries.

Mrs Phan Savuth, 51, recalls: "We were so scared of losing our livelihoods. Sometimes I expressed my concerns to villagers who had caught baby fish and, and I would be laughed at and scorned."

Now, the fish are back. Every day, someone catches a fish as big as 7kg or 8kg, and anyone who is eager enough can pull in 20kg in a day. In the dry season, skilled fishermen can catch fish with their bare hands.

The turning point came when the villagers formed a Community Fishery Committee and created a conservation area in Krochab Lake, with \$5,000 from the Global Environment Facility's Small Grants Programme and guidance from a local NGO, Community Capacity Development.

They fenced off about 3.4 hectares of the 7 hectares lake with posts and barbed wire and sank 35 sections of large concrete pipe as havens for the fish to spawn. Volunteers patrol the lake to deter anyone poaching, polluting or cutting flooded forest.

The extra income has been channeled into Self Help and Savings Groups, enabling families to buy rice seed, fertilizer, and diesel for irrigation pumps.

Mrs Chan Thy, 43, the community book keeper, says: "Now there is less concern about hunger because families are able to earn more. As a result, there is less domestic violence."

Working Together

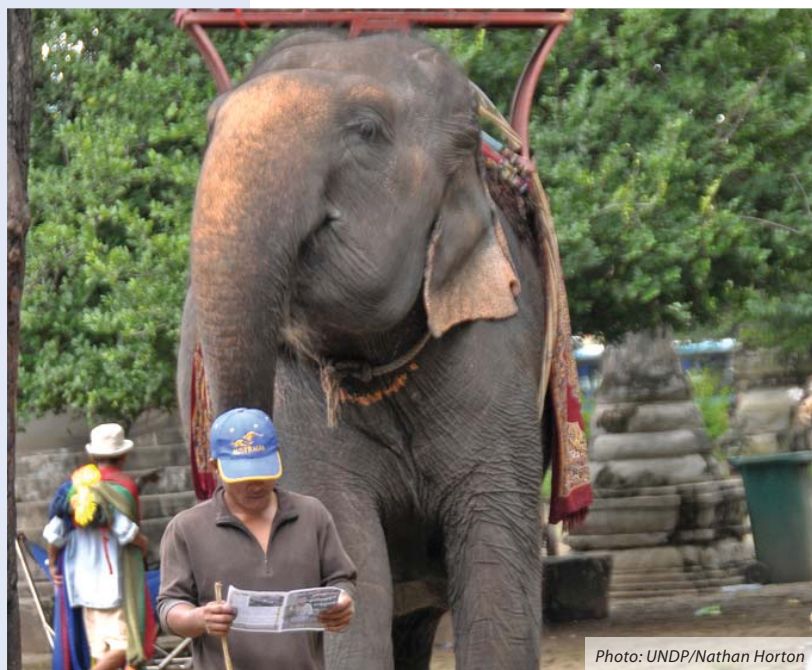


Photo: UNDP/Nathan Horton

Sambo the Elephant and her handler at Wat Phnom in Phnom Penh peruse materials on the campaign to ban cluster bombs

Partnerships use teamwork to realize a shared vision

The United Nations Development Programme is the UN's global development network, an organization advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experiences and resources to help people build a better life. We are on the ground in 166 countries, helping them to attract and use aid effectively, and supporting them as they find their own solutions to global and national development challenges.

UNDP Cambodia works through partnerships with the Royal Government of Cambodia, non-governmental organizations, civil society, community-based organizations, private firms, multilateral aid agencies and bilateral donors. Partnerships with DFID, SIDA, the European Union, Australia, Canada, and the Global Environment Facility, among many others, were crucial to the results achieved in 2008.

At national level, UNDP worked with the Parliament, the Ministry of Commerce, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Women's Affairs, the Ministry of Planning, the Ministry of Information, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports and the Council for

the Development of Cambodia. At the sub-national level, UNDP worked with the offices of the provincial governors, line departments of the national ministries, and the Provincial Executive Committees.

UNDP worked closely with the National Election Committee and its provincial and commune committees. Other important national counterparts included the Supreme National Economic Council, the Cambodia National Mekong Committee, the Cambodian National Petroleum Authority, the Cambodia Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority, the Cambodia Mine Action Centre, national television station TVK.

Partnerships with non-governmental organizations were important for the achievement of UNDP's goals in 2008. In support of peaceful and inclusive elections, UNDP worked with the Cambodian Development Resource Institute, the Neutral and Impartial Committee for Free and Fair Elections in Cambodia, the National Democratic Institute, the Cambodian Disabled People's Organization, the Committee for Free and Fair Elections, and the Committee to Promote Women in Politics. In support of expanding access to justice, UNDP worked with the Community Legal Education Center and Legal Aid of Cambodia. In the environmental field, UNDP worked with international NGO the Wildlife Conservation Society. UNDP managed funds from the Global Environment Facility used in the Small Grants Programme of environmental initiatives at community level. It worked with the NGO Forum of Cambodia to identify potential grant recipients and with many local NGOs to implement projects.

UNDP manages funds for Cambodian side of tribunal

UNDP manages funds entrusted to the Cambodian side of the Extraordinary Chambers of the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC). The ECCC was established to bring to trial senior leaders of the Khmer Rouge for atrocities committed between 17 April 1975 and 6 January 1979. The court has two distinct components: the UN side and the national side. Each side is funded separately.

In June 2006, UNDP established a special project to manage funds entrusted to the national side of the court by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs. These were funds remaining from the UN mission of the Transitional Authority in Cambodia, which in 1993 organized the country's first democratic elections. Other donors, including the European Commission, France and Australia, have contributed funds to the national side of the court via the UNDP-managed project.

Volunteers share their energy and gain valuable experience

United Nations Volunteers (UNV) advocates for volunteerism, integrates volunteerism into development planning and mobilizes volunteers in support of peace and development efforts worldwide. UNV began working in Cambodia in 1992, and since then more than 1200 volunteers have served with almost all UN agencies and many government bodies and NGOs. Since 2006, UNV has also supported national volunteer organizations in deploying local volunteers for grassroots initiatives in some of Cambodia's poorest rural provinces.

In 2008, 34 international and 13 national UN Volunteers served in Cambodia across more than 25 sectors, ranging from HIV-AIDS, trade policy and elections to mine clearance, youth empowerment and ICT for education. About 60 percent of the volunteers worked in the UN system, 35 percent in government and the remainder in NGOs and the academic and private sectors. Nine Cambodian nationals were deployed as UN Volunteers in other UN peace-keeping and development missions in Africa and elsewhere in Asia. UNDP also hosted five volunteers under the Australian Youth Ambassadors for Development scheme, as well as 46 national interns and 12 international interns.

UNV continues to support the UNDP/GEF/Ministry of Environment Tonle Sap Conservation Project by providing national UN Volunteers who are engaged in community development initiatives in the villages of the Tonle Sap Biosphere Reserve. The project, supported by the Japan Trust Fund, enables national UN Volunteers to work directly with families and local savings groups, providing training and technical inputs to encourage environment-friendly rural livelihoods activities.

UNV is an active member of VolCam, a network of volunteer agencies operating in Cambodia.



Photo: UNDP/Neissan Bessharati

47 UN Volunteers served in UN Agencies, government, NGOs and the academic and private sectors in 2008

On International Volunteer Day, the network organized a volunteering fair, where promotional materials in English and Khmer were distributed. UNV cooperated with Youth Star Cambodia to support and publish a research project, *Volunteerism: Harnessing the Potential to Develop Cambodia*. The study found that there is a rich experience of volunteering in Cambodia, though it is not widely recognized, and confirmed that volunteering has the potential to contribute significantly to improving livelihoods and achieving national development goals. UNV is now working with its partners to develop an environment that will enable volunteerism to flourish, advocating for policy and support from Government and the private sector.

Alex Hiniker, Communications and Advocacy Officer for UNDP Cambodia's demining project, said she chose to be a UNV because she wanted to use her skills for a worthwhile cause. "I was not expecting to learn so much in the process," she said.

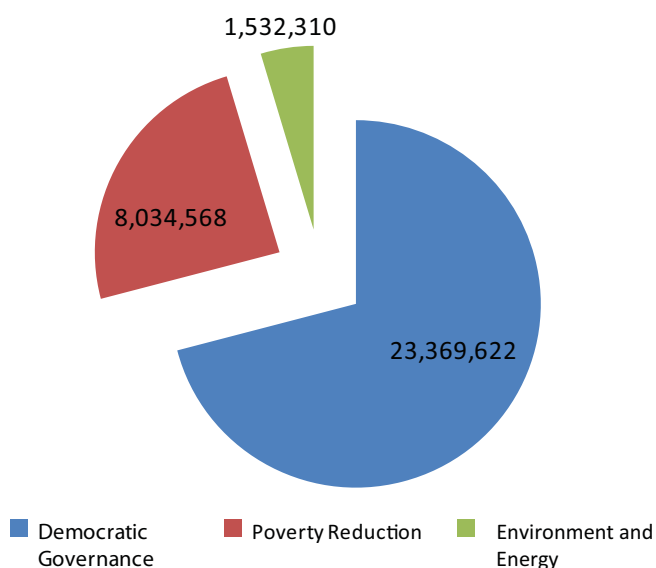
"My favorite part about my job is definitely going to the provinces to speak with the people who benefit from our work. In addition to learning about Cambodia through my professional activities, living here has given me great insight into the challenges Cambodia faces – and the strength of the people who work to overcome them. I have also learned a great deal from my fellow volunteers, who come from around the world and work in a wide variety of sectors."

Donors

UNDP (Core funding)	7,545,858.27
SIDA-Sweden	6,204,590.19
DFID-UK	5,308,342.08
CIDA-Canada	3,544,996.01
European Commission	3,003,901.53
AusAID-Australia	2,706,383.41
Spanish Agency for International Cooperation	2,366,476.16
Global Environment Facility	1,116,168.42
New Zealand	292,336.78
Norway	260,987.46
UN Association of the United States	189,138.37
Montreal Protocol	157,740.67
Ireland	122,288.32
DANIDA-Denmark	117,293
Total	32,936,501.11

Delivery

Expenditure by Thematic Areas 2008



Cambodia MDGs



1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
2. Achieve universal primary education
3. Promote gender equality and empower women
4. Reduce child mortality
5. Improve maternal health
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
7. Ensure environmental sustainability
8. Develop a global partnership for development
9. De-mining, UXO and victim assistance

Acronyms and Abbreviations

Camcontrol	Cambodia Import Export Inspection and Fraud Suppression Department	NEC	National Election Committee
CCCO	Cambodian Climate Change Office	Organic Law	Law on Administrative Management of the Capital, Province, Municipality, District and Khan
CDC	Council for the Development of Cambodia	PEC	Provincial Election Committee
CRDB	Cambodia Rehabilitation and Development Board	CEC	Community Election Committee
CMAA	Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority	NGO	Non-governmental organization
CMAC	Cambodian Mine Action Centre	RGC	Royal Government of Cambodia
CNMC	Cambodia National Mekong Committee	SLM	Sustainable Land Management
DFID	Department for International Development - United Kingdom	SNEC	Supreme National Economic Council
EC	European Commission	SIDA	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
EU	European Union	Trade SWAp	Sector Wide Approach to Trade
GDP	Gross Domestic Product	UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
GEF	Global Environment Facility	UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
GTZ	German Agency for Technical Cooperation (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit)	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
ILO	International Labour Organization	UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
MAFF	Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	UNV	United Nations Volunteers
NCDD	National Committee for Sub-National Democratic Development	WCS	Wildlife Conservation Society
		UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
		WTO	World Trade Organization



Children in a village school near protected areas of the Northern Plains receive education in the value of protecting their unique environment



Photo: UNDP/Isabelle Lesser

A guardian of the Prek Toal bird sanctuary patrols the protected area on the Tonle Sap, Cambodia's great inland waterway



Cambodia

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