

ANNUAL REPORT 2010



Cambodia



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Empowered lives Resilient nations

UNDP is the United Nations' global development network, an organization advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. We are on the ground in 176 countries. In Cambodia we support the government and communities to further their own solutions to the challenges of development. The overarching aim of our work is supporting progress towards the Cambodia Millennium Development Goals.

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Cover photo : UNDP

Cambodian vendor Sa Sim sells bamboo shoots at a market in Choam Ksan district, Preah Vihear province.

Contents

Influencing Transformative Change	2
Poverty Reduction	7
Democratic Governance	13
Environment and Energy	19
Promoting Gender Equality	25
How We Work	27
Working Together	28
Support from Development Partners	29
Expenditure by Thematic Areas	29

Cambodia at a Glance

Population 2008	13.4 million ¹
Annual population growth rate 1998-2008	1.54% ¹
Gross domestic product (est) 2010	US\$11.34 billion ²
GDP annual growth (est) 2010	5.9% ³
GDP per capita (est) 2010	US\$830 ²
Poverty (% of population below national poverty line) 2007	30.1% ⁴
Life expectancy at birth (men/women, est) 2008	60.5/64.3 ¹
Adult literacy rate (literacy among people aged 15 years and older, men/women) 2008	85.1%/70.9% ¹
Child mortality rate, under 5 years old (per 1,000 live births, est) 2008	90 ⁵
Children classified as malnourished according to weight for age 2008	28.8% ⁶
Maternal mortality ratio per 10,000 live births (est) 2008	461 ¹
Estimated adult HIV prevalence rate (aged 15-49, est) 2009	0.7% ⁷
Households having access to improved water sources (urban/rural) 2008	76%/41% ¹
Civilian casualties from landmines and unexploded ordnance (annual) 2010	286 ⁸
Official development assistance	US\$ 884.5 million ⁹

* est = estimate

¹ General Population Census of Cambodia 2008, National Institute of Statistics, Ministry of Planning: <http://www.nis.gov.kh/>; ² Ministry of Economics and Finance: Seminar on Cambodia's Development Path on 5th July 2011; ³ Ministry of Economics and Finance: www.mef.gov.kh/macroeconomic.php; ⁴ Cambodia Socio-Economic Survey 2007: www.nis.gov.kh/index.php/statistics/surveys/cses ⁵ UNICEF: www.unicef.org/infobycountry/cambodia_statistics.html; ⁶ Cambodia Anthropometrics Survey 2008, page 25; ⁷ National Center for HIV/AIDS, Dermatology and STI Control, Ministry of Health (2007): Report of a Consensus Workshop: HIV Estimates and Projections for Cambodia 2006-2012 data.unaids.org/pub/Report/2008/cambodia_hiv_estimation_report_2006_en.pdf; ⁸ Cambodian Mine/UXO Victim Information System Monthly Report April 2011 www.cmaa.gov.kh/; ⁹ Paris Declaration Survey 2011

Cambodia Millennium Development Goals



1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger



2. Achieve universal nine-year basic 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



Cambodian farmers pluck rice seedling for replanting in a rice field in Oddar Meanchey province. (Photo: UNDP / Chansok Lay)

INFLUENCING TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE

SHARPENING THE PRO-POOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AGENDA

UNDP has helped bring into sharper focus the need for a pro-poor national economic and social development agenda, assisting Government to set priorities for inclusive, equitable growth and increased resilience in the aftermath of the economic crisis.

The harsh impacts of the global economic crisis on Cambodia were a stark reminder of the importance of building the country's resilience to future shocks, especially to protect the poor. In particular, the global downturn exposed the need for Cambodia to focus in the future on more inclusive and equitable growth that reaches and benefits all.

In 2006-2010, UNDP supported the Government's efforts to refine its economic growth policy agenda to be diversified, inclusive and pro-poor through high-quality research on national competitiveness and monitoring of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The Trade Integration Strategy focused on 19 products for export with the potential to improve the livelihoods of 2.5 million farmers. Oil and gas and mining conferences prompted the Government to embark, with UNDP support, on developing policies to build a responsible extractive industries sector.

"If the crisis has brought one proposition to global attention, it is this: resilient growth is as important as high growth. Resilience comes from greater inclusion, be it of citizens, of groups, of workers or of regions, in the process by which growth is generated. It requires paying constant attention to those who are most vulnerable to reversals in economic fortunes." Mr. Ajay Chhibber, UN Assistant Secretary-General, UNDP Assistant Administrator and Director, UNDP Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, speaking at the Cambodia Economic Forum.

Introduction and integration of local MDG scorecards into the new sub-national planning system will help policy-makers identify lagging Cambodia MDGs (CMDGs), pinpoint local development priorities and make investment decisions to reach the MDGs by 2015.

In the poorest provinces, UNDP's income generation schemes have increased livelihood opportunities for approximately 20,000 rural households through eco-tourism, community fisheries, farming pilots and the promotion of indigenous handicraft products.

STRENGTHENING PARTICIPATION AND REPRESENTATION

With decade-long support from UNDP, local-level governance in Cambodia has emerged as a foundation for participatory decision-making and has given rise to broader national decentralization reform. UNDP support to a series of elections since 1991 and to the electoral cycle has helped bridge gaps in national capacities to conduct elections.

At the local level, UNDP has played a key role in developing decentralized governance structures and systems. This contributed to the design of the Organic Law, which established new elected provincial and district authorities, and the preparation of a 10-year programme to implement the reform.

In partnership with the UK Department for International Development (DFID) and Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), a US\$ 252 million investment in 2006-2010 in local infrastructure and social action increased people's access to both social services and markets. For instance, UNDP's support to scaling up Commune Committees for Women and Children in 2010 increased pre-school attendance by 15,000 children (47 percent girls) and childbirth support. Local conflict resolution has been applied in six provinces, prompting the Government to embark on designing a mediation law.

"What UNDP contributes is highly appreciated. Outputs include efficient management and systems; increased capacity of Government staff from province to village level; improved livelihoods, reduced poverty, better public service delivery and social change for communities; and better cooperation among all stakeholders." Mr. Cheam Ran, Permanent Member of the Provincial Rural Development Committee, Kampong Cham province.

UNDP contributed greatly to a better-run election in 2008, with less violence and more participation of women, despite some remaining concerns about voting irregularities. A Technical Working Group on Voter Registration was established in 2010 to discuss the establishment of mechanisms to address irregularities prior to the 2012 and 2013 elections. Support to Parliament led to civil society involvement in the review of six draft laws and public Millennium Development Goal (MDG) hearings. The newly established National League of Communes/Sangkats and Provincial Associations of Communes/Sangkats are able to better advocate the interests of councillors.

"Now, people are participating in our work, which has made for more effective decision-making. People have started to change their thinking and behaviour, from being afraid to speak out in public to daring to speak out, and sometimes complaining as well." Mr. Touch Phon, Commune Chief, Kandal province (since 1979).



Cambodian youth take part in a mock parliamentary debate during a visit to the National Assembly. (Photo: UNDP / Chansok Lay)

A NATIONAL FOCUS ON CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION

From being almost unheard of, climate change has raced up the Government agenda. With UNDP facilitation of broader external support, institutions and capacities are now better organized to generate a response to climate change in all sectors in the future.

Climate change has emerged as a priority on Cambodia's national agenda, as reflected in the National Strategic Development Plan Update 2009-2013. UNDP has supported key policies, such as the National Action Plan for Adaptation with its seven identified priority sectors; the REDD+ Roadmap to secure sustainable financing for forest management; and a national strategy to coordinate a coherent response to climate change across all sectors. Financing solutions have been designed, such as a Trust Fund to support mainstreaming and adaptation measures and a small grants programme to support community resilience initiatives with high potential for replication.

UNDP has played a significant role in setting the policy agenda for community management of natural resources by supporting the responsible management of nine sites that account for 30 percent of the country's total protected areas. In this, 142 community committees have been set up, sustainable livelihoods opportunities, such as eco-tourism and fish sanctuaries, are now being scaled up and environment preservation priorities have been integrated in 35 local development plans.

"We need to respond to both poverty reduction and climate change adaptation. The work needs involvement not only from decision-makers at national levels but also from the local communities that are most affected by climate change."
H.E. Chheng Kimsun, Director-General of the Forestry Administration.



A farmer works in his paddy field using the rice intensification technique to get higher yield. (Photo: UNDP / Chansok Lay)



Women councillors in Kampot province discuss needs and challenges they face in their work. (Photo: Chhim Sopheark)

AN EVER-GROWING ROLE FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

Deep institutional change has occurred in relation to how Cambodian society views women. UNDP's long-term support has helped change attitudes, with greater awareness of women's rights now evident across the board and practical mechanisms for gender mainstreaming and financing more firmly in place.

Greater awareness of women's rights is evident and attitudes towards gender equality are changing within society and the Government. UNDP has helped to develop a unique structure for mainstreaming gender in the Government, produce quality data and design policies that reduce discrimination.

All 27 line ministries and institutions have now set up Gender Mainstreaming Action Groups. Of these, 19 have already produced Gender Mainstreaming Action Plans, and 7 received national budgetary support in 2010 and for the first time undertook gender analysis and integrated gender concerns in their respective sectors.

At the national level, many major policies and reform programmes are now gender-responsive such as, importantly, the Organic Law and the programme for public financial management reform. Policy-making is more participatory and inclusive of women. The civil service affirmative action guideline, with 20 to 50 percent of new recruits' seats reserved for women, led to a 2 percent increase in the number of female civil servants in just one year.

"UNDP was the first partner to trust the Ministry of Women's Affairs [MoWA] in the long term in its mission. It was good advocacy, good research and, above all, good partnership that led to 90 percent of our requests regarding women's representation and participation at sub-national level, in terms of both quantity and quality, being accepted into the Organic Law [on decentralization and de-concentration]."
H.E. Ing Khanta Phavi, Minister of Women's Affairs.

"Gender is now a core issue throughout policy-making and in all programmes in each ministry. It is now firmly on the country's development agenda at the macro level. And MoWA is influencing the Government to focus on women's rights where it really counts. Overall, Cambodia is now recognized internationally as a country that has moved extremely fast on gender equality." H.E. Ing Khanta Phavi, Minister of Women's Affairs.

BREAKING NEW GROUND IN SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

UNDP is helping Cambodia to take advantage of increased South–South cooperation opportunities in Asia and beyond. In its partnerships with countries in the region, UNDP is exploring more opportunities in a number of areas of interest.

A special opportunity has emerged with the selection of Cambodia as the official pilot country to apply a Memorandum of Understanding set up between UNDP and the People’s Republic of China. This agreement was concluded in September 2010 in New York on the sidelines of the Global Millennium Development Goal (MDG) Summit in the presence of the UNDP Administrator and China’s Prime Minister, with a view to strengthening cooperation between the two parties “to further support other developing countries under the framework of South–South Cooperation”.

Selection of Cambodia as a pilot country opens the way to build on existing good relations between the two countries and prove in practice the principles of this innovative trilateral partnership. Exploratory work, assisted by UNDP, defined the focus of this partnership as support to livelihoods through irrigation and agricultural development.

Use of South–South approaches is also an integral part of UNDP’s programme portfolio in many areas. In 2010, many practical steps helped to harness the potential of South–South exchange. Cambodia learned from and contributed to such exchanges in many ways:

- Cambodia helped Bhutan, Laos, Nepal and Timor Leste assess their own conditions and needs to mainstream **trade** in development policy. Visits to China, Europe and West Africa helped Cambodia forge relations and expand its target markets.
- UNDP facilitated a study tour to Indonesia for officials working on decentralization to learn about service delivery performance criteria, the role of the local government association and delegation of powers. This increased ministries’ engagement in **decentralization** reforms.
- Representatives of four political parties, the National Election Committee and civil society visited Malaysia to learn about **voter registration** experiences.
- The 2008 oil and gas conference and the 2010 mining conference helped Cambodia hear other countries’ experiences in regulating the extractive industries. Regional networking sprang up between China, Laos, Mongolia and Vietnam as a result of the mining conference.
- Expertise from Nepal helped the Government and donors to compare experiences in building capacities towards nationally led trust funds, which is relevant for the UNDP-assisted **climate change** Trust Fund in Cambodia. The Government’s participation in regional workshops resulted in closer cooperation on forecasting extreme weather events and disaster risk reduction with China, the Philippines and Vietnam.
- On issues related to **aid effectiveness**, Cambodia shared best practice with Bangladesh, Guyana, Laos, Nepal, Rwanda, Tajikistan, Timor Leste and Vietnam.
- Cambodia shared best practices in **demining** with Afghanistan, Colombia, Eritrea, Mozambique, Nepal, Peru, Thailand, Vietnam and Yemen. Following a study tour, Cambodia adopted aspects of Afghanistan’s demining management system to use from 2011.



UNDP Country Director Elena Tischenko, left, and H.E. Cham Prasidh, right; Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce, preside over a trade project workshop. (Photo: UNDP / Chansok Lay)

“The Ministry of Women’s Affairs’ excellent and successful partnership with UNDP has helped put us in a position where we can take our programme as good practice for replication to show other countries.” H.E. Ing Khanta Phavi, Minister of Women’s Affairs.



A Cambodian villager casts his fishing net in a canal in Takeo province. (Photo: UNDP / Chansok Lay)

POVERTY REDUCTION

Poverty in Cambodia fell from 47 to 30 percent between 1993 and 2007¹, driven at least in part by high growth. However, the global economic crisis, rising food and fuel prices and the threat of climate change have highlighted the fragility of the country's growth path, despite relatively rapid recovery from the global slowdown in recent months. Also of concern is continued inequality between rich and poor, as well as between and within regions. UNDP works in a number of areas to help Cambodia meet Cambodia Millennium Development Goal (CMDG) 1 by achieving poverty reduction and more sustainable and resilient growth. These include:

- Making rural livelihoods more sustainable
- Tracking progress on the MDGs
- Promoting pro-poor policy dialogue, agenda-setting and responsible management of key sectors
- Clearing land of mines for productive use by communities
- Improving ownership, effectiveness and coordination of aid

¹ UNDP (2011) 'Mapping and Scalability Study of Poverty Reduction and Livelihood-enhancing Interventions in Cambodia.'

MAKING RURAL LIVELIHOODS MORE SUSTAINABLE

UNDP supports sustainable income generation by the poor by building production skills and helping them access markets for traditional products. Women and indigenous groups both help preserve cultural heritage and make a better living by earning an income supplementary to that from farming.

Similar assistance in communities living in protected areas helps link environment, conservation and sustainable livelihood objectives within one cohesive approach, for example through the development of eco-tourism and the production of tree resin and “wildlife-friendly” rice.

At the national level, UNDP’s assistance to the Ministry of Commerce to mainstream pro-poor trade in national policy will eventually help open up more opportunities for the poor to engage in income-generating activities. For example, the ministry has produced commodity profiles on rice, cassava and cashew nuts, as export products with high potential to reduce poverty, accompanied by the mechanisms needed to support the whole value chain in their production.

Results that UNDP contributed to:

- In the poorest provinces, income generation schemes have increased livelihood opportunities for around 20,000 rural households, through eco-tourism, community fisheries, farming pilots and the promotion of indigenous handicraft products.
- In 2010, 38 producer groups, comprising a total of 462 producers of indigenous products (resin, pottery, handicrafts and textiles) expanded their access to domestic markets in 4 provinces.
- Women make up at least 60 percent of beneficiaries of support to indigenous people, particularly at trade fairs at national and provincial levels, which have commercialized selected cultural products.



A Cambodian man transports hand-made baskets on his motorbike on a road in Preah Vihear province. (Photo: UNDP / Chansok Lay)

“The income generated from producing handicrafts has helped support my family’s daily needs, such as rice and food during the months of the year when we are out of stock. I also use this income to buy study materials and clothes for the children to go to school.” Ms. Pov March, Handicraft Producer, Ratanakiri province.

“There are many improvements in the countryside today compared with before, particularly in terms of livelihood opportunities. UNDP has been one of our strongest partners in this regard, especially through its help to marginalized people to access the market with their products.” H.E. Ok Sophon, Director General, General Department for Intangible Cultural Heritage, Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts.

Cambodian rice millers expand trade with EU

In 2009, Cambodia trailed behind Thailand and Vietnam in terms of exports of milled rice to Europe. And yet, early in 2011, representatives of European buyers will visit Cambodia to sign a contract for 40,000 tonnes of milled rice annually – an amount almost twice that exported to Europe in 2009.

This has come about because, in October 2010, with UNDP’s support, the Ministry of Commerce led a delegation of rice millers, private sector representatives and Government officials to explore opportunities for rice export to the European Union (EU). The visit aimed to assist Cambodian rice millers to develop trading partnerships and gain first-hand information about the technologies, qualities and standards needed to enter European markets.

“Before the visit, we had no idea what the market requires. Now, after seeing it with our own eyes and talking directly to buyers, we know what EU consumers want,” Norng Veasna, a rice miller from Kampong Cham, said.

TRACKING PROGRESS ON THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Cambodia was one of the first countries to produce a Millennium Development Goal (MDG) report (in 2001), largely as an awareness-raising and advocacy tool. Subsequently, UNDP supported the Ministry of Planning to contextualize the MDGs in the Cambodian context, which led to the formal adoption of the Cambodia MDGs (CMDGs), including a Cambodia-specific ninth goal related to demining. The third report contributed directly to the preparation of the National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP) and generated most of its indicators. The 2010 MDG report was Cambodia's fifth, feeding into global analysis of current trends and new approaches to accelerate achievement on goals that are off-track five years before the deadline. In this, UNDP assisted with gap analysis in conjunction with the release of the NSDP Update 2009-2013.

To address a lack of sub-national targets for the CMDGs, UNDP has assisted the Ministry of Planning in developing a new tool, the CMDG scorecards. These draw on data from the existing nationwide Commune Database (CDB) and help reveal disparities in MDG performance at sub-national level. The commune-level, nationwide database contains comprehensive information on demography, natural resources, poverty, education, occupation, housing, transportation, gender and domestic violence, health, sanitation, access to clean water, governance, security and indigenous people.

"If we look just at the MDG document, we know what needs to be done, but we cannot measure our results. The scorecards show us our results." H.E. Hou Taing Eng, Secretary of State, Ministry of Planning.

"The scorecards help sharpen understanding of the development landscape and ensure a focus on areas where progress is lagging. We know that, if an indicator on one goal is below 50 points, we need to pay more attention to increasing that score." Mr. Tiev Choulong, Department of Planning, Battambang province.

Results that UNDP contributed to:

- Government, with UNDP support, is modifying and integrating the CMDG indicator framework into a revised NSDP indicator framework, to produce a single, harmonized guide.
- CMDG scorecards were developed, tested and disseminated in all provincial and city planning departments in 2010. They equipped 1,200 local decision-makers with evidence to guide prioritization and budget allocation and will now provide the basis for dialogue and citizen oversight of progress on the CMDGs.



Cambodian planning officials play a game marking progress in achieving the Cambodia Millennium Development Goals. (Photo: UNDP / Sherif Rushdy)

PROMOTING PRO-POOR POLICY DIALOGUE, AGENDA-SETTING AND RESPONSIBLE MANAGEMENT OF KEY SECTORS

As a long-term and trusted partner of the Government, UNDP is well-placed to offer a neutral platform for constructive dialogue on a number of issues of importance to Cambodia's future inclusive economic and social agenda.

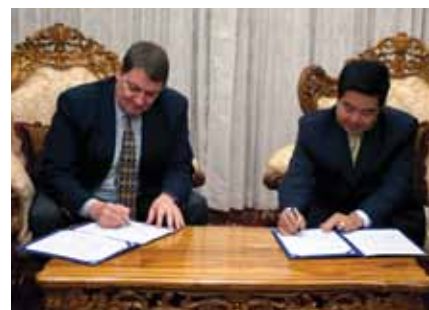
UNDP has contributed to the formulation of policy on inclusive and equitable growth, through analytical inputs and dialogue: on rural development (through the National Human Development Report (NHDR) 2008); on responding to the economic crisis and ensuring competitiveness and diversification of the economy and sustainable use of natural resources; and on responsible governance in the extractive industries. Preparations for the Fourth Cambodia Economic Forum helped consolidate policy options, propose directions for industrial development and emphasize the importance of social protection and investments in human capital.

"New opportunities are opening up for Cambodia as the country resumes an impressive growth and takes on an ambitious agenda [...]. We are proud to be part of this acceleration effort and help make sure that such growth is inclusive and people-centred, so that by the time Cambodia achieves middle-income status – as it intends to do by 2020 – it arrives there with equity, a solid social base and resilience to sustain and enlarge its development gains." Ms. Elena Tischenko, Country Director, UNDP Cambodia.

Results that UNDP contributed to:

- UNDP capacity development of the Cambodian National Petroleum Authority led to the redesign of the authority's website. The Ministry of Industry, Mines and Energy (MIME) worked with UNDP on how to address the challenges of artisanal and small-scale mining. The Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative made its first-ever visit to Cambodia in 2010.

"[...] if it is fortunate to discover large and economically viable mine deposits, Cambodia will do its utmost to use the gains from those resources with high responsibility." Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of Cambodia, at the UNDP-supported international mining conference in Phnom Penh on 26-27 May 2010.



UNDP Resident Representative Douglas Broderick, left, and H.E. Suy Sem, Minister of Industry Mines and Energy, sign a memorandum of understanding to assist Cambodia to develop a responsible mining sector. (Photo: UNDP / Chansok Lay)

Staking a Claim for Cambodia: ground-breaking international conference on mining

Cambodia's first international mining conference took place on 26-27 May 2010, organized jointly by UNDP and MIME. This was the first time discussions had been held in Cambodia on the social, environmental and economic implications of mining. It was also the biggest UNDP conference of the year, with 400 participants, including the Prime Minister and global mining leaders.

The conference opened the doors to new private sector investors who can bring international best practices to Cambodia, and also pointed to new opportunities to increase transparency, accountability and sustainability in the mining sector, through increased engagement with development partners, civil society and international institutions. As a follow-up, MIME approached UNDP for support to develop Cambodia's mineral policy. To improve technical capacities in mining, UNDP helped re-open Cambodia's geology and geo-engineering school.

CLEARING LAND OF MINES FOR PRODUCTIVE USE BY COMMUNITIES



A Cambodian man works on his vegetable farm on landmine-cleared land in Battambang province. (Photo: UNDP / Isabelle Lesser)

"[This work] clearly demonstrates our unfettered commitment to free our people from the fear and danger of land mines and to free contaminated lands for our rural communities and needed development."

H.E. Dr. Sok An, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister in Charge of the Office of the Council of Ministers.

"Without the mine-clearing project, I would have gone far from my family to be a labourer for someone else instead of working on my own land and growing my own trees."

Liv Phoeun, farmer, Battambang province.

Over the past 18 years, UNDP has been supporting landmine clearance and helping the Cambodian Mine Action Authority (CMAA) coordinate and regulate mine action activities. Since 2005, this has enabled community-driven landmine clearance that contributes directly to poverty reduction and rural development. Communities actively prioritize lands to be cleared, for use in agriculture, housing, roads, schools and other activities, in line with national and provincial development plans.

Today, CMAA has become a fully functional, nationally managed organisation, and UNDP has helped raise more than US\$ 50 million for the country's Mine Action Programme.

Results that UNDP contributed to:

- In 2010, UNDP and the Cambodian Mine Action Centre cleared more than 6 million square metres of contaminated land and destroyed 7,000 anti-personnel mines, 150 anti-tank mines and over 30,000 items of unexploded ordnance.
- More than 10,000 families benefited from access to newly cleared land for farming and to irrigation, roads, health centres and other critical infrastructure. Nearly 2,000 students will be able to attend schools in areas that were cleared of mines in 2010.
- Casualty rates have declined progressively, from over 2,700 a year in the late 1990s to 286 in 2010.

Cleared minefields put to productive use in Battambang

In the past, landmines contaminated much of the farmland in Battambang province. Farmers had to support their families and went ahead by using a sharpened metal bar to poke the ground, searching for the deadly devices. One farmer, Liv Phoeun, recalls a hair-raising moment in 1999 which almost cost him his life:

"As I poked harder and harder, the bar touched the side of a landmine and it gave a spark. I trembled and fell sick for days. My wife asked me what had happened but I just told her that I had a fever."

Today, the backyard of his house is filled with fruit trees. The village where his family lives has roads, schools and plantations. Opposite his house, where there used to be an empty space contaminated with landmines, now stands a primary school where his children and those of his neighbours go to study. Mine-clearing efforts taken by the Cambodian Government with support from development partners like UNDP have given peace of mind to local residents to go about with their daily lives.

IMPROVING OWNERSHIP, EFFECTIVENESS AND COORDINATION OF AID

Cambodia remains heavily dependent on aid. Effective aid coordination and increased Government capacity to manage aid processes are crucial to address national priorities and implement the National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP). In recent years, UNDP support has helped catalyze broader multi-donor efforts leading to the Government's increased ownership and coordination of external assistance.

UNDP gives technical assistance to CRDB/CDC to improve the management and results orientation of development assistance; to assess progress through the Cambodia Aid Effectiveness Report and monitoring of Paris Declaration implementation; and to reduce the fragmentation of aid and harmonize programmes for greater effectiveness. Alongside other development partners, UNDP works to promote the use of programme-based approaches (PBAs), including in the areas of gender and mine action, where UNDP leads in the facilitation of the aid dialogue.

Sector-level Government–Donor Joint Monitoring Indicators (JMIs), evolving since 2004, provide an increasingly robust monitoring framework to measure progress and address bottlenecks in the implementation of the NSDP Update 2009–2013 and identify ways to better align aid to areas where improvement is needed. UNDP is playing a key role in helping the Government to critically review aid effectiveness mechanisms and to prepare for the High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan, South Korea, in late 2011. Following this, 2012 will see a comprehensive aid policy review and update in order to enable a better response to new priorities and the changing context as the country moves ahead in its ambition to achieve middle-income status by 2020.

“Beyond harmonized procedures and greater efficiency, the PBA has the potential to offer a flexible approach to overcome many of the aid management challenges that have been documented so far in Cambodia.” H.E. Chhieng Yanara, Minister attached to the Prime Minister and Secretary-General of CRDB/CDC.

Results that UNDP contributed to:

- The Official Development Assistance Database, managed and maintained by CRDB/CDC, has been acknowledged as international best practice, particularly its contribution to the transparency of aid.
- In 2010, 19 Technical Working Groups were advised in the development of JMIs to increase mutual accountability for development results.
- Cambodia has also contributed to South–South learning on ODA management and aid mechanisms by sharing best practices with Bangladesh, Guyana, Laos, Nepal, Rwanda, Timor Leste and Vietnam.

Moving towards a programme-based approach

Towards the end of 2010, the Government and development partners adopted a concept note on PBAs, as a basic roadmap for the Government, development partners and other stakeholders to maximize the impacts of aid. Initially, PBAs were embraced at the Cambodia Development Cooperation Forum – an annual gathering to discuss financial development assistance – in June 2010.

Harmonization of national strategic planning, budgeting and development cooperation financing remains a joint priority, as the Government and development partners work together to reduce poverty and foster sustainable growth for the Cambodian people.



Cambodian local council officials in Preah Sihanouk province prepare for a meeting to discuss community development planning. (Photo: UNDP / Chansok Lay)

DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

The Cambodian Government has put good governance at the centre of its strategy for growth and poverty reduction, especially through its on-going devolution of authority and responsibility for citizen welfare to local level. This commitment notwithstanding, there remain issues in democratic representation, people's participation, electoral reform, corruption and other areas, where limited progress points to the need for renewed efforts and engagement. The concerns of the population, especially women, people with disabilities, indigenous groups and youth, are still not receiving sufficient attention and are not adequately reflected in planning and decision-making processes.

UNDP Cambodia has been a long-term and trusted partner to the Government in the implementation of decentralization and de-concentration and democratic governance systems. Areas of focus include:

- Building more responsive local governance
- Improving the delivery of social services in communities
- Supporting more accountable and participatory representation
- Creating space for democratic debate and dispute resolution

"Our approach involves different actors working together, at different levels, to meet the needs of Cambodians, wherever they are, and to make sure Cambodia's development potential is realized and shared by all." H.E. Sak Setha, Secretary of State, Ministry of Interior, Head of the Secretariat of the National Committee for Sub-national Democratic Development.

BUILDING MORE RESPONSIVE LOCAL GOVERNANCE

As Government policy has evolved from the mid-1990s to the present day, UNDP has been the lead agency in coordinating support to Cambodia to articulate its vision of a truly participatory system of local governance as the basis for long-term economic and social development.

From the outset, UNDP assisted the Government in formulating policies for democratic development, decentralization and de-concentration. This involved support to the establishment of a legal and institutional basis for setting up elected commune councils and, later, district and provincial councils.

In 2010, the National Committee for Sub-national Democratic Development (NCDD) launched the 10-year National Programme for Sub-national Democratic Development. This aims to facilitate the transfer of functions from central ministries to the new Sub-national Administrations (SNAs), as well as sources of funding to allow them to undertake their new responsibilities.

UNDP has been building the capacity of SNAs to carry out planning and financing in a way that is more participatory, accountable and representative of people's needs. The National League of Communes/Sangkats and Provincial Associations of Communes/Sangkats are helping enhance the status and capacity of local councils to make their voices heard and to defend the interests of their constituents.

Results UNDP has contributed to:

- 31 legal and regulatory instruments were developed in 2010 alone to ensure functioning SNAs at provincial and district levels.
- In general, UNDP-supported democratic governance programmes and projects have made a strong contribution to poverty reduction: there has been an overall decrease in the number of rural households with incomes below the national poverty line.

"SNAs can help deliver on important national objectives and help foster sustainable local development across Cambodia." H.E. Sak Setha, Secretary of State, Ministry of Interior, Head of the Secretariat of the National Committee for Sub-national Democratic Development.

"Through UNDP support, provincial and district facilitation teams and commune councils now know how to organize and manage tasks, such as general administration, planning and project implementation, including monitoring and evaluation as well as communications and resource mobilization, to support communes and sangkats." Mr. Va Kim Heng, Department of Planning, Kampong Cham province.



Villagers discuss community development planning with local officials in Preah Sihanouk province. (Photo: UNDP / Chansok Lay)

Mr. Hong Hay, Commune Chief, Kandal province: learning to deliver good governance

"Since I was elected chief of the commune council, I have very much appreciated the chance to work hard to overcome challenges to serve my people. I have gained a great deal of capacity, especially in relation to good governance and leadership, by benefiting from the support of UNDP. Many trainings and actual on-the-ground implementation have helped me learn to use my ability and experiences to move the commune forward for democratic development through good governance.

"UNDP has also helped the Government give the commune council more opportunity to promote local development through the mobilization of local resources and people's participation. In this regard, we are grateful that the Government has delegated us autonomous power, grounded in the law, to make our own decisions based on the needs of the people. As for how this works in communities, people are working more openly and cooperatively with the commune and vice versa: both participation and ownership have improved."

IMPROVING THE DELIVERY OF SOCIAL SERVICES IN COMMUNITIES

The state of local public services is a reflection of the strength and accountability of Government institutions at sub-national level. In fact, the two processes are mutually supportive: while participatory processes improve the likelihood of better and more responsive service delivery, improved service delivery encourages a greater degree of participation by beneficiaries.

UNDP has been supporting Cambodia's Sub-national Administrations (SNAs) to plan and implement local development projects. Inter Commune/Sangkat Cooperation is strengthening service delivery through the implementation of joint development work, which is also leading to heightened initiative and ownership among commune and sangkat councils.

Financing for local services goes through the Commune Fund, which is now well established, and many of the small projects have helped improve the lives of Cambodian villagers. While most of the budget goes to infrastructure, in 2010 the social sector represented the largest number of projects.

By scaling up support to Commune Committees for Women and Children (CCWCs) and gender focal points in each commune, UNDP has contributed to reduced domestic violence, increased access for pregnant women to medical services in health centres and increased enrolment of children in school.

Results UNDP has contributed to:

- Inter Commune/Sangkat Cooperation contributed in 2010 to 89 new inter-commune cooperation projects, with 59 completed as of December.
- 1,621 elected commune councils are able to plan and implement small-scale infrastructure and social action initiatives.
- Citizen satisfaction surveys show more than 80 percent of local people believe communes are focusing on agreed priority areas and paying greater attention to the needs of marginalized groups.
- UNDP support to CCWCs helped 15,000 more children go to preschool (47 percent girls).

"SNAs have good knowledge about their own territories. So they are very well positioned to 'adapt' Government actions to local circumstances and therefore increase efficiency and effectiveness in the use of public resources. They can make sure that the Government provides the right combination of services where they are needed." H.E. Sak Seta, Secretary of State, Ministry of Interior, Head of the Secretariat of the National Committee for Sub-national Democratic Development.

"Through the CCWC, we can help poor pregnant women have safe prenatal checkups at the health centre and also disseminate information to fight domestic violence. The council has also learnt a lot from training in many areas, such as how to work as a good team, with strong working procedures, administration and leadership." Mrs. Chhuon Yorn, Commune Councillor and CCWC Focal Person, Kandal province.



A new road built by inter-commune cooperation funds eases hardship of villagers in Takeo province. (Photo: UNDP / Chansok Lay)

In Sok's experiences: hardship eased through commune cooperation

Three years ago, In Sok found navigating the dirt road between his home and his paddy field extremely hard.

"The road was tiny and bumpy. During the rainy season you could hardly drive your bike through this road because it was so muddy, sticky and slippery," he said.

Since then, a joint project by three local councils has turned the former ox-cart track into a road that offers a smoother ride. Under this commune cooperation scheme, local councils pool ideas, initiatives and funds to build local infrastructure like roads, irrigation canals and schools for their residents.

"Now, I will not sell this land," In Sok said, pointing to his paddy field. *"With this smooth road, I won't sell regardless how high land prices become. Buying more is more likely."*

SUPPORTING MORE ACCOUNTABLE AND PARTICIPATORY REPRESENTATION

UNDP has helped Cambodia implement elections since the Government's first mandate in 1993, to enable citizens to exercise their democratic rights more effectively. Over time, this has enabled the Government to build capacities for electoral reform and take over the electoral process at the national and local level.

UNDP is contributing to enhancing the effectiveness, transparency and fairness of future elections. In 2010, the Government, with support from UNDP, set up the Technical Working Group on Voter Registration, led by the Ministry of Interior and the National Election Committee (NEC), to discuss the enhancement of voter lists and annual voter registration and people's identification documents in elections. UNDP also held a series of ID card trainings at the Ministry of Interior.

UNDP facilitates regular monthly dialogue between the five political parties represented in Parliament and relevant stakeholders such as the NEC, the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Information on key political, democratic and Millennium Development Goal (MDG)-related issues. These dialogues take place both at the political and technical level, with stakeholders expressing that they would like to count on UNDP's continued engagement as a fair and impartial partner.

To further accelerate progress in terms of women's representation in elected positions, UNDP has supported political parties in their efforts to increase women's political participation and the space available to them within their parties. This has resulted in a strengthened role for women within parties and various degrees of intra-party gender mainstreaming. Party action plans to promote women's representation in the 2012 and 2013 elections have been drafted.

UNDP also assists in the capacity development of both local-level officials and parliamentarians to carry out their responsibilities through trainings and briefings on key issues. Support to parliamentary field activities helps contribute to heightening officials' and parliamentarians' response to the needs of their constituents across the country.

Results UNDP has contributed to:

- The 2008 elections saw voter turnout of 75 percent and an increase in the proportion of women Members of Parliament (MPs), from 12 percent in 2003 to 22 percent in 2008, and of women councillors from 8 percent in 2002 to 14.6 percent in 2008.
- 123 newly elected MPs received an induction to their new functions. 216 MPs participated in budget-related trainings or dialogues. 27 events in 2010 increased parliamentarians' and senators' awareness on the MDGs, which until then had been largely unknown.
- Ministers attended parliamentary briefings in the National Assembly for the first time.
- Parliament's field activities between 2008 and 2010 reached more than 4,500 constituents. School programmes in 2010 reached 160 children and forums reached 360 youth.

"UNDP has played a major role in bringing to the high-level table political parties committed to electoral reforms. This proactive initiative should be continued and sustained with full support from the donor community and other stakeholders." H.E. Mu Sochua, MP and President of Women's Wing, Sam Rainsy Party.

"Each party has its own concept of the country's development. It is therefore not easy to call them together. However, UNDP has done this job, and every single party is happy to work with the agency in this way. Parties now sit together to work towards solutions related to elections and democracy." H.E. Som Soeun, Chief of Cabinet of the Cambodian People's Party.

CREATING SPACE FOR DEMOCRATIC DEBATE AND RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES



Cambodian local councillors attend a forum on accountability and transparency in management of commune/sangkat budget in Kampot province. (Photo: Chhim Sopheark)

“We have a duty to address local issues as the people have entrusted us with their votes. We have to do our utmost to help to build our communities; we cannot just hang around until our term expires.” Mr. Seng Chheang, Commune Chief, Preah Vihear province.

UNDP helps Cambodia to advance the culture of democracy by promoting dialogue between civil society and local and national elected representatives. UNDP supports the organization of participatory civic education forums for community members, in particular marginalized groups, to meet with local authorities to

discuss local issues and solve problems. Innovative use of the media, such as through the Equity Weekly programme, helps inform the Cambodian electorate on issues related to democratic governance.

UNDP along with the EU contributes to building citizens’ capacity to oversee the performance of elected officials. In villages throughout Cambodia, local councillors and communities are telling officials how the Government can better meet their basic needs, through public forums that are proving instrumental to the Government’s efforts to raise people’s standards of living. These forums offer citizens a place to voice their concerns directly to local and Government representatives, and are key ingredients in strengthening grassroots democracy and improving people’s lives.

At the local level, UNDP has also created alternative dispute resolution mechanisms to help the poor and marginalized seek redress in disputes at commune and district levels. Local conflict resolution methodologies have now been applied in six provinces, prompting the Government to embark on designing a mediation law.

Results UNDP has contributed to:

- Almost 960 people (40 percent women) participated in regional public forums in 8 provinces in 2010.
- Data collected from the Government and NGOs on people with disabilities were compiled in 2010 into one database, which now contains information on 12,000 persons.

Equity Weekly provides a TV platform for politicians to communicate with constituents

Equity Weekly is a current affairs TV programme co-produced by UNDP and TVK, which has broadcast on TVK each Sunday night since 2007. Journalists explore a wide range of subjects – from health care, to education, to climate change. The goal of the programme is to provide the democratic space for national dialogue on issues of key concern to Cambodians at a critical time in the nation’s development.

With 52 weekly shows aired in 2010, the programme’s website is the most viewed TV show website online. Equity Weekly also has a strong internet presence, particularly through its Facebook page, on which viewers provide a constant stream of feedback about the stories and issues explored on the TV programme.

In 2010, UNDP and TVK embarked on an ambitious series of TV programmes in partnership with Oxfam America about Cambodia’s extractive industries, as part of a regional programme to support the responsible management and development of oil, gas and mining sectors throughout South East Asia.

Preah Vihear villagers celebrate the return of a community lake through the Provincial Association of Communes and Sangkats

Luck wasn't on Chan Thi's side as she tried to catch fish in Choam Prei Lake, moving from spot to spot, scooping her basket through the water. But each time she lifted it, mud was all she caught.

"Disappointing," moaned the 55-year-old, a resident of Romchek village, Romney commune, Preah Vihear province in northern Cambodia.

But after a pause she said she was happy too – happy that her community of mostly Kuoy indigenous people has won a battle to reclaim the lake from a better-off local farmer. The lake is now a community asset on which the villagers can pin hope for a livelihood in the future.

Their victory was an isolated case, yet it signified a success for the Provincial Association of Communes and Sangkats, a network of sub-national governing bodies, in acting as a springboard for addressing local concerns.

The contention started as long ago as 1998, when a village chief signed off the 30-ha lake to a local farmer to grow lotus. Over the years, the farmer added a fish farm, with two dykes to divide the lake into three parts to make fish ponds. He built a large wooden house to guard against trespassers, and said that, by investing his own resources in the lake, he had also contributed to protecting the surrounding forest from being logged.

The lake was off-limits not only to the villagers, who used to depend on it for fish, but also to their cattle, which used to graze nearby and drink its water. Denied a key source of livelihood, they collected thumbprints and filed a complaint with Romney commune office, about 225km from Phnom Penh, Cambodia's capital.

Commune Chief Seng Chheang admitted he first felt powerless to act. But after taking part in a few meetings of his Provincial Association, he found the strength to advocate for his community's cause. To his surprise, he got the attention of other participants – and their support too.

"Without the forum, I would not have dared to fight that hard. I would have felt cold because I did not have enough support. It has given me confidence. It is a place I can go to for help when I have a problem," he said.

The saga of Choam Prei Lake reached the attention of the Ministry of Environment. In January last year, H.E. Mok Mareth, Minister of Environment, declared the lake the property of the local community.

The villagers, overjoyed, are committed to preserving their shared natural asset. They talk about plans to stop leakage of water from the lake so that there is enough water for fish to spawn. Men in the village now also take turns patrolling the surrounding forest to ward against loggers and hunters. All of this is part of a greater dream they are cherishing – for the lake and its surrounding nature to become an eco-tourist site one day.

"That is our hope," Som Doeun, 39, another villager, said as he wrestled a catfish from a leftover net. "I've got a fish," he exclaimed, trying to impress other villagers.

Chan Thi didn't mind not having the same luck as her neighbour because, she said, as long as the lake now belongs to her community, there will be fish for her to catch next time.



Som Doeun, a villager, holds a catfish caught in Choam Prei lake in Preah Vihear province. (UNDP / Chansok Lay)



Children view a poster, which educates villagers about the impacts of climate change, in a village in Preah Vihear province. (Photo: UNDP / Chansok Lay)

ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

Climate change and the adverse effects of deforestation are putting agriculture, water supplies, ecosystems and human health in Cambodia at high risk. As 80.5 percent of Cambodians live in rural areas², mostly engaged in rain-fed and subsistence agriculture, reduced production is a major source of vulnerability. Meanwhile, 30 to 40 percent of rural households' income comes from forest products³, which means deforestation represents a serious threat to their livelihoods.

The Government has developed a number of sustainable development policies to combat some of these threats. In particular, work is on-going to strengthen policy, legislative and regulatory mechanisms on biodiversity conservation; sustainable forest management; climate change adaptation and mitigation; and the promotion of clean and renewable sources of energy.

UNDP supports Cambodia in these efforts, in particular working in the following areas:

- Tackling global environmental challenges
- Supporting local communities in biodiversity conservation, sustainable use of natural resources and income generation

"We simply cannot live without nature. No fish, no forest, no water, will mean no life. Therefore, we need to care about nature and the world needs us to care about it." Mr. Heng Hourt, Department of Environment, Kampong Thom province.

² According to the National Strategic Development Plan.

³ Cambodia Development Research Institute (2006) The Value of Forest Resources to Rural Livelihoods in Cambodia.

TACKLING GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

Cambodia's high dependence on agriculture is an underlying factor in high vulnerability to climate change. According to the 2010 Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment Report, commissioned by the Ministry of Environment, at least 700 communes out of 1,621 have high vulnerability to climate change. Poor people and other vulnerable groups, such as female-headed households, children and indigenous people, are most affected.

UNDP is supporting the Government to integrate longer-term resilience to climate change and extreme climatic events into sectoral policy and planning. In 2010, research on vulnerabilities in five sectors (agriculture, water resources, coastal areas, health and forests) produced key inputs into the design of a national cross-sector response.

UNDP is supporting national and local efforts to mitigate the adverse effects of forest degradation arising from logging, firewood extraction and land-grabbing. In 2010, UNDP provided technical and financial support to the Government to develop its REDD+ Roadmap to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. The REDD+ Roadmap has been validated by the UN Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD). Cambodia has become one of five pilot countries chosen by the UN-REDD Policy Board to carry out initiatives to reduce deforestation.

The 2010 National Human Development Report (NHDR), prepared with UNDP support as an in-depth, nationally owned analytical document, focuses on climate change as a complex challenge facing Cambodia in its economic and human development. Throughout its development, the NHDR helps ensure climate change is a highly recognized and urgent priority in the eyes of policy-makers, development practitioners and the general public.

Results UNDP has contributed to:

- UNDP-supported activities have reduced forest loss in target areas to less than 10 percent of that in comparable areas. This was especially marked from 2006 to 2010, when deforestation pressures increased.
- Cambodia's REDD+ Roadmap succeeded in attracting US\$ 3 million from UN-REDD for programmes designed to protect forests and reduce emissions from forest degradation.
- The Government's new 20-year National Forestry Programme includes reference to REDD and climate change mitigation and adaptation initiatives, as does its draft Green Growth Strategy.
- Cambodia's vulnerabilities to climate change have been documented in five sectors (agriculture, water resources, coastal areas, health and forestry) providing evidence to guide the development of sector adaptation strategies.
- The Climate Change Solution Exchange network enabled 260 practitioners to contribute to and benefit from knowledge-sharing on public awareness strategies, indigenous peoples' knowledge, REDD+ and aid effectiveness and climate change.

"Achieving long-term ecological sustainability with continued economic growth and human well-being will remain one of the biggest challenges facing Cambodia and countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The threats posed to Cambodia by climate change and natural disasters are huge, and the poor and marginalized, particularly women and children, will be worst affected." Mr. Ajay Chhibber, UN Assistant Secretary-General, UNDP Assistant Administrator and Director, UNDP Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific.

"The development of the REDD+ Roadmap has offered Cambodia a platform for multi-stakeholder dialogue based on the principle of national ownership and partnership. Implementation of the REDD+ Roadmap will further promote multiple agencies to engage to develop a national REDD system for national forest monitoring and management in Cambodia." Mr. Keo Omaliss, REDD Focal Point and Deputy Director, Department of Wildlife and Biodiversity, Forestry Administration.

Planting trees to preserve fish on World Environment Day

On 5 June 2010, World Environment Day, the residents of Peam Baing, a floating village on the edge of the Tonle Sap Lake, were planting trees. Their exercise was part of global action to create a greener world, but it had a special significance for them. The trees they planted will help enrich the plains during the flooding season to provide a breeding ground for fish – the main source of livelihood for the villagers and nearby communities.

“Without the flooded forest, we would face misery. Our lives depend totally on fishing. Without fish, we have no food and rice, because it is the source of our income,” 52-year-old Sourn Ne, a villager, said.

The gathering was part of various activities conducted by UNDP under the global theme “Many Species One Planet One Future” to stimulate awareness of environmental issues and actions.



Villagers plant trees in a flooded plain on the edge of the Tonle Sap lake as part of the celebration of World Environment Day. (Photo: UNDP / Chansok Lay)

SUPPORTING LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION, SUSTAINABLE USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND INCOME GENERATION

Cambodia has one of the highest proportions of conservation land globally, at 32 percent⁴. However, these areas are put at risk by logging; fuel wood dependency and lack of alternative sources of rural energy; clearance for agriculture; weak forest sector governance; and economic land concessions.

Meanwhile, and unlike in other countries, these areas have high numbers of inhabitants, who are often impoverished. Given that it is not realistic or desirable for these communities to relocate, the solution lies in simultaneously addressing environmental protection and livelihood support objectives.

As such, UNDP's support to community actions to conserve biodiversity is also promoting the sustainable use of natural resources. In addition, the Government and development partners are working with local communities to supply extra incentives to avoid further degradation of the environment.

Results UNDP has contributed to:

- From 2006 to 2010, there was a significant improvement in the management of 7 protected areas and protected forests sites covering about 862,976.9 ha of forest land and wetland areas. UNDP supported the responsible management of 9 sites accounting for 30 percent of total protected areas.
- In 2010, biodiversity conservation was integrated into planning in 6 communes, 4 districts and 1 province.
- In the Northern Plains, UNDP contributed to a reduction in the annual rate of forest loss to 0.19 percent between 2002 and 2010; the annual deforestation rate at the country level is about 0.8 percent.

"Conservation of biodiversity is important. At the same time, rural people can benefit from livelihood improvements through the sustainable use of resources. To give greater value to economic development and rural poverty reduction, it is important for Cambodia to assess key biodiversity components and develop policy for benefit-sharing with local communities." Ms. Chan Somaly, Director of Department of International Environmental Conventions and Biodiversity, Ministry of Environment.

"We have managed to promote alternative livelihoods and improved people's understanding of and participation in environmental protection. At the same time, we still need to continue to strengthen the capacity of local communities in relation to alternative livelihoods by providing skills, knowledge and inputs for them to sustain such activities. We also need continued support in biodiversity monitoring and capacity building." Mr. Long Kheng, Director of Prek Toul Core Area, Ministry of Environment.

Sorn San experiments with new rice seeds to combat climate change

Sorn San's small household was among 15 in Kratie province that recently took part in an experiment of rice seed varieties that are more resilient to floods and droughts. The area is no stranger to floods in the rainy season and droughts in the dry season, which made it ideal for testing the seeds.

Like most Cambodian farmers, Sorn San is used to replanting the same seeds every year and had not been exposed to new, scientifically researched seeds as an alternative.

He harvested the crop in mid-December and called the trial a success. What impressed him most about the seeds – code-named CAR3 and CAR4 – was that they have stronger and taller stems and give higher yields than the traditional varieties. He felt his family was lucky to be chosen to test the new seeds, which have already begun attracting interest from other villagers.

"Many farmers nearby asked me if I could share the seeds with them, but I'm not sure yet because I have a limited amount to sow next season," he said with a beam on his face.

⁴ Ministry of Environment (2006) 'Cambodia National Environmental Performance Assessment Report'



A girl holds a bowl of wildlife-friendly Ibis rice which is grown by villagers in the Tmatboey conservation area in the northern plains of Cambodia. (Photo: Eleanor Briggs)

“Before work started six years ago, rangers in this area had very limited understanding and knowledge of wildlife protection and conservation. We faced a lot of illegal activity. The rangers have now been empowered to the great extent that they are able to monitor, report on wildlife status and promote successful law enforcement. This has resulted in a significant reduction in illegal activity. Rangers now have the knowledge, skills and facilities to perform their tasks. Populations of critical bird species have increased significantly. Moreover, environmental education has managed to promote alternative livelihoods and improve people’s understanding and participation in environmental protection.” Mr. Long Kheng, Director of Prek Toal Core Area, Ministry of Environment.

Linking conservation objectives with improving local livelihoods has meant the promotion of sustainable and innovative livelihood opportunities. With co-funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the UNDP-administered Small Grants Programme supports community initiatives that help, in an integrated way, to protect biodiversity, enable local communities to generate incomes and strengthen mechanisms for community-

based planning and sustainable use of resources.

These have included community-based forest management; eco-tourism projects such as safari camps; fish sanctuaries; drought/flood-resilient farming practices, such as “wildlife-friendly protected area rice”; marketing of resin products; handicrafts; pilot carbon credit schemes; among others. Many of these show high potential for replication and scale-up.

The main geographical focus is on the Northern Plains of Cambodia, which is of global significance in biodiversity conservation, and the Tonle Sap Lake and flood plain, which is a threatened UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Biosphere Reserve. Work has not been limited to these areas, though, and innovative environmentally friendly projects have given sustainable alternatives to communities across the country.

More strength for resin tappers in Preah Vihear

In Preah Vihear, villagers’ livelihoods depend largely on selling raw resin to brokers, who usually share the largest percentage of the income obtained. With UNDP support, five resin tapper groups have been formed in Choam Ksan and Tbeng Meanchey districts, comprising 91 resin tappers, of whom 50 percent are women.

The resin tapper groups have been trained on sustainable resin collection, protection of their resin trees and basic business skills. Market access has been improved and the price of resin has increased through collective negotiation with buyers. Furthermore, with UNDP support, resin groups have received technical assistance from the Non-Timber Forest Product Exchange Programme on network establishment and the development of new products and marketing.

The five resin groups are supporting 25,457 trees, which include 12,222 *Dipterocarpus intricartus* trees and 13,253 *Dipterocarpus alatus* trees.

Results UNDP has contributed to:

- Cambodia's total annual carbon emissions of 438,957 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent are expected to be reduced by 61,043 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent nationally as a result of the adoption of improved cooking stoves through UNDP-supported projects.
- UNDP support to 142 community-based natural resource management sites in 2010 offered benefits in terms of incomes, land security and social safety nets to about 150,000 rural people, representing 2.5 percent of rural people in Cambodia, who largely depend on natural resources for their livelihoods.
- 142 community committees were also set up and strengthened between 2006 and 2010. Sustainable livelihoods opportunities are now being scaled up and environment preservation priorities have been integrated into 35 local development plans.

Cambodian Buddhist monk wins international environmental award

Ven. Bun Saluth is not a typical Buddhist monk. He is on a crusade to preserve an 18,261 ha forest area in his province. Over the past eight years, he has come to the rescue of dozens of wild animals from traders, and also leads a volunteers' patrol to prevent illegal logging. It's a mission that has earned him an award from this year's Equator Initiative, a UNDP prize for efforts to conserve global biodiversity for poverty reduction.

Ven. Bun Saluth began his environmental mission in 2002. Peace had just returned to Cambodia after nearly 30 years of armed conflict. The province, once a major battle zone, became an attraction for migrants and people with business interests seeking free land. Slowly, the trend began to take a toll on the forest. He said he had to act to put the brakes on further forest destruction – even if this sometimes meant putting himself and his forest guardians against gun-wielding poachers.

"When Buddha was still alive, he used trees and caves as lodging to obtain enlightenment. In this way, he taught us to love natural resources and wild animals," Ven. Bun Saluth, 39, said during a recent patrol of the site known as Monk's Community Forestry. It is in this spirit that he protects his local flora and fauna.

Under his leadership, six villages have come together to protect the area – currently the largest community-managed forest conservation site in Cambodia. It is a sanctuary to some of the country's threatened species. The villagers rely on it for non-timber forest products such as mushrooms, tree resin, wild ginger, wild potato and bamboo, which they collect every day to support their families.

The Cambodian Government's Forestry Administration formally granted the forest legal status as a community-managed forest in 2009. It is now one of 13 community forest sites chosen for Cambodia's first carbon credit project under the UN-led programme Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD).

When Ven. Bun Saluth received phone calls telling him about the award, he was astonished.

"I was speechless and almost went into shock," he recalled. He said he could not think of a better way to use the prize money of US\$ 5,000 other than to invest it in furthering his mission – "only that but nothing else."



Students campaign to promote gender equality in Takeo province. The banner reads “Women are the backbones of the national economy.” (Photo: UNDP / Chansok Lay)

PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY

Women make up more than half the Cambodian population, yet they do not share half the wealth, resources and voice. They are subject to lower access to education and health services, and violence, particularly sexual assault, remains a concern. They also make up the majority of the large informal economy, which provides low, irregular income and unstable employment.

With support from UNDP, the Ministry of Women’s Affairs (MoWA) has continued to mainstream gender equality throughout Government institutions and in its on-going key state reforms, as referred to under the transformative change section of this report. Embracing gender equality as a cross-cutting theme, UNDP integrates it in all aspects of the country programme, working through ministries, local authorities, civil society and communities.

UNDP helps generate credible evidence of positive change and remaining challenges through research on gender issues. In 2010, this included studies on gender in the extractive industries and in HIV/AIDS services. Gender analysis was integrated into the 2010 National Human Development Report. UNDP supported the first-ever study on the political participation of women with disabilities and an assessment of women’s participation in politics.

“Before, I was not confident I could perform my work with other commune councillors: I was so shy and I have low education. Now, I can share my ideas in any meeting and make speeches in public. It all comes from the formal and informal training I have received.”
Mrs. Touch At, Commune Councillor, Kandal province.

“Women are playing a greater role across society. They are self-confident, they really dare to raise their voices. This means people are actually taking gender into consideration now, on a daily basis and in all spheres of their lives. And this means women are contributing more to their own socio-economic development and that of the country as a whole.” H.E. Ing Khanta Phavi, Minister of Women’s Affairs.

At the national level, UNDP support to the women's wings of the main political parties resulted in the development of party action plans to promote women's representation in the 2012 commune elections and the 2013 National Assembly elections. Parliamentary debate witnessed discussions of critical gender issues, such as women's participation in decision-making and maternal mortality, a subject that stayed high on the debate agenda in 2010.

Results UNDP has contributed to:

- The Ministry of Environment's Gender Mainstreaming Action Plan, approved in 2010, aims to increase gender awareness and women's ability to access and manage resources and environmental services. The Ministry of Economy and Finance's Plan, also approved in 2010, aims to integrate gender in the public finance sector, especially in the on-going public financial management reform.
- At the Tonle Sap Lake, UNDP created 13 new saving groups in 2010. The majority of members were women, who were also equipped with skills to allow them to start up income generation activities: pig/fish farming and processing, handicrafts and entrepreneurial skills.
- By the end of 2010, women in 210 court cases had received legal representation from pro bono lawyers. 890 community conversations were conducted to raise awareness on domestic violence, reaching 3,560 villagers. Awareness improved and numbers of cases reported in targeted villages reduced.

Weaving a better future

As her family could no longer support her study, Chor Vichara did just as many underprivileged Cambodian women would do – she abandoned school to take a job at a garment factory. She earned about US\$ 70 a month and could send some money home to support her family. After three years, however, she called it quits.

"The work at the factory gave me no hope. I could learn nothing from it to build a good future. That's why I came here," she said. Vichara is learning to weave at the UNDP-supported MoWA Women Development Centre in Kampong Speu. She is one of 20 women currently receiving training in dyeing, weaving and sewing – skills she can use to pursue a more sustainable livelihood. To date, 95 women have benefited from the support.



Cambodian women receive training in dress-making at the Women's Development Centre in Kampong Speu province. (Photo: UNDP / Chansok Lay)



Cambodian artists perform a traditional dance during a joint UN rally “Stand Up, Take Action” against poverty in Phnom Penh. (Photo: UNDP / Chansok Lay)

HOW WE WORK

UNDP is one of 23 UN agencies, funds and programmes operating in Cambodia under the UN Resident Coordinator system, which aims to ensure improved effectiveness of UN operations at the country level by drawing on the support, expertise and guidance of the entire UN Country Team.

As in other countries, UNDP Cambodia aligned its work in 2010 with that of other UN agencies under the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2006-2010. UN agencies in Cambodia are also moving the harmonization and alignment agenda forward within the context of the UN Secretary-General’s UN Reform agenda.

In alignment with UNDP’s organizational MDG Breakthrough Strategy, UNDP’s new Country Programme (2011-2015) is centred on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and contributes directly to the achievement of UNDAF outcomes.

UNDP Cambodia delivered US\$ 173 million in 2006-2010 at an average of US\$ 33 million a year. The new programme budget is US\$ 150 million for 2011-2015.

In 2010, UNDP Cambodia Country Office employed 101 national and international personnel. Out of this number 46 were men. Implementation of the gender equality strategy is a priority for the office and led to the increase, by the end of 2010, in the number of female staff to 55 from 45 in 2009. UNDP Cambodia has also invested in building staff capacity internally on results-based and project management, and in continuous learning and staff development.

UNDP Cambodia’s procurement spending in 2010 totalled approximately US\$ 13.9 million, an 8 percent increase on 2009. Engagement of analytical and advisory services of experts and specialists to strengthen national capacities amounted to approximately US\$ 5 million, or approximately 35.8 percent of total spending.

WORKING TOGETHER

UNDP advocates for change and connects countries to knowledge, experiences and resources to help people build a better life. It is on the ground in 166 countries, supporting them to attract and use aid effectively and to find their own solutions to global and national development challenges.

UNDP Cambodia works in partnership with Government, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), civil society, community-based organizations, private firms, bilateral donors and multilateral aid agencies. In some instances, it implements projects directly.

In Government, UNDP has partnered with the Ministries of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries; Commerce; Environment; Industry, Mines and Energy; Information; Interior; Justice; Planning; and Women's Affairs. It works closely with Parliament, the Supreme National Economic Council, the National Election Committee, the Cambodia National Mekong Committee, the Cambodian National Petroleum Authority, the Cambodia Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority, the Cambodia Mine Action Centre, national TV station TVK and the Council for the Development of Cambodia Cambodian Rehabilitation and Development Board. It works with provincial governors, line departments and Provincial Executive Committees.

Partnerships with Sida, DFID, the EU, AusAID, CIDA, GEF and AEICD were crucial to results achieved in 2010. The Partnership and Harmonization Technical Working Group has worked as a peer review mechanism on important policy initiatives, such as programme-based approaches (PBAs) and how to make partnership effective.

UN agencies are also strengthening support to the Resident Coordinator system to meet results outlined in UNDAF. In this regard, UNDP has systematically advocated for the UN Delivering as One system. In particular, close partnerships have been built with UN agencies (FAO, UNCDF, UNEP, UNIFEM, IFAD, UNICEF and UNFPA) as part of the new country programme design.

UNV promotes volunteerism to support peace and development worldwide, by advocating for volunteerism globally, encouraging partners to integrate volunteerism into development programming and mobilizing volunteers. UNV began working in Cambodia in 1992, and since then 1,303 volunteers have served with almost all UN agencies and many Government bodies and NGOs.

In 2010, there were 33 international and 8 national UN Volunteers in Cambodia, working in governance and human rights; aid effectiveness; HIV and AIDS; environmental protection; youth development; volunteerism; gender poverty reduction; information technology; and development communication. In addition, 10 Cambodian nationals were serving as UN Volunteers in different UN missions in Africa, including the Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia, Rwanda and Sudan.

In 2010, UNV supported the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports to integrate volunteerism into the National Youth Policy. UNV also helped build capacity in the Volunteerism Sub-Unit and in Youth Centres in 11 provinces by developing a methodology and training on the set-up of youth volunteer groups. In 2009-2010, through the Sustainable Livelihoods through Community Volunteerism project, Volunteers promoted alternative and biodiversity-friendly income generation in communities around the Tonle Sap Biosphere Reserve. The project mobilised nearly 600 community volunteers and set up 15 savings and self-help groups. Community volunteers continue to run the activities.

With UNV's strong support, the network of organizations bringing in and sending international and national volunteers – the VolCam – has become an important venue for sharing ideas and experiences and joint advocacy on volunteerism, as well as for coordination of activities related to marking IVD and IYV+10, by ensuring strong national ownership.

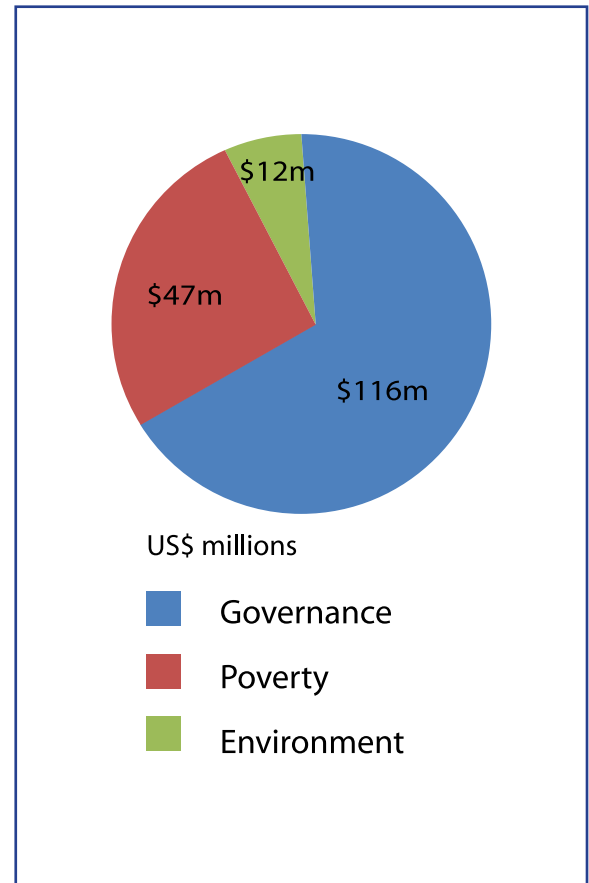
UNDP also works with the Wildlife Conservation Society, the Committee for Free and Fair Elections, the Community Legal Education Center, Legal Aid of Cambodia and many other local NGOs.

Support from development partners

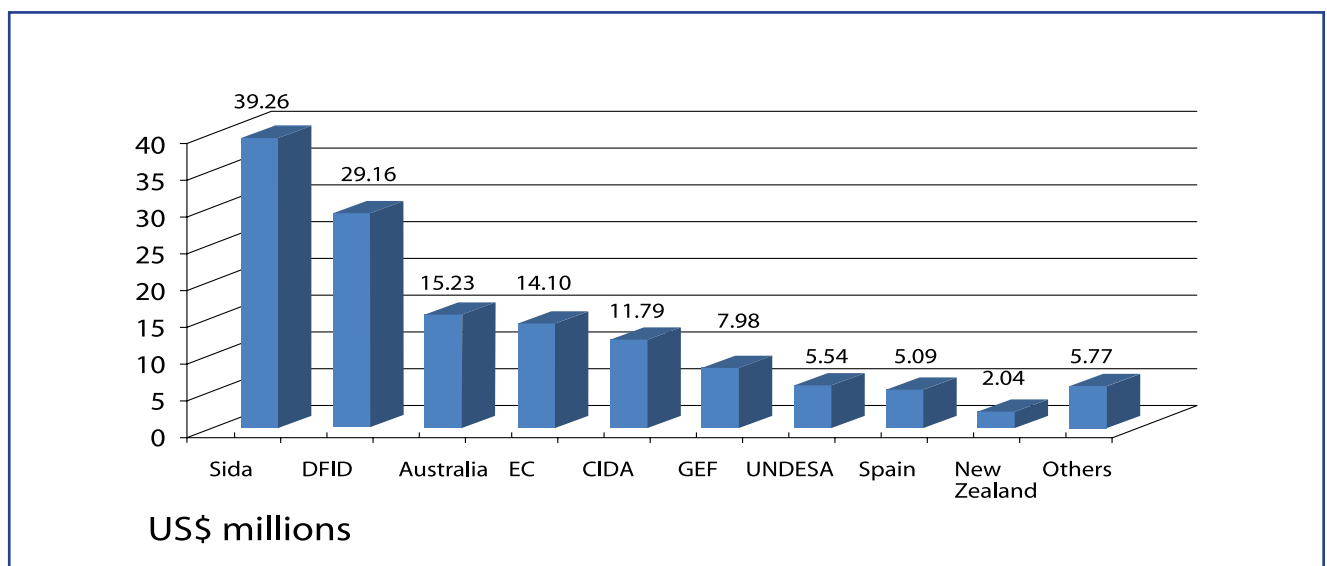
Sida / Sweden	11,134,017
UNDP (Core funding)	9,693,486
European Union	3,506,606
AusAID / Australia	3,395,318
CIDA / Canada	2,615,324
Global Environment Facility	1,269,878
AEICD / Spain	1,132,101
Country Co-Financing Cost Sharing	315,486
NZAid / New Zealand	463,355
UN Democracy Fund	169,547
Norway	111,619
Irish Aid / Ireland	87,859
Oxfam America	74,823
UN Association of the United States	65,853
Montreal Protocol	20,373
UNAIDS	12,863
Royal Government of Cambodia	6,653
United Nations Children's Fund	2,310
Danida / Denmark	43
Norwegian Petroleum Directorate	29
Total	34,077,544

US\$ millions

Expenditure by thematic areas, 2006 - 2010



Resources mobilized 2006 - 2010





Cambodia

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