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CAMBODIA



ANNUAL
REPORT

2011





CAMBODIA AT A GLANCE

Population	14.3m ¹
Annual population growth rate	1.34% ²
GDP in 2011	US\$12.9 billion ³
GDP growth in 2011	7.1% ⁴
GDP per capita in 2011	US\$909 ⁵
Poverty rate	26.1% ⁶
Life expectancy at birth (men and women)	62/68.3 ⁷
Adult literacy rate (male and female age 15 and older)	85%/71% ⁸
Child mortality rate, under 5 years old (per 1,000 live births, est. 2010)	54 ⁹
Children under-five classified as underweight (est. 2010)	28% ¹⁰
Maternal mortality rate (per 100,000 live births, est. 2010)	206 ¹¹
HIV prevalence rate among adults aged 15-49 (est. 2010)	0.6% ¹²
Percentage of rural population having access to improved drinking water	45% ¹³
Civilian casualties from land mines and unexploded ordnance in 2011	211 ¹⁴
Official development assistance (est. 2011)	US\$1.2 billion ¹⁵

¹ National Strategic Development Plan Update 2009-2013

² National Strategic Development Plan Update 2009-2013

³ Ministry of Economy and Finance www.mef.gov.kh

⁴ Ministry of Economy and Finance www.mef.gov.kh

⁵ Ministry of Economy and Finance www.mef.gov.kh

⁶ National Strategic Development Plan Update 2009-2013 (Mid-term review 2012)

⁷ National Strategic Development Plan Update 2009-2013

⁸ Cambodia Demographic and Health Survey 2010 p. 1

⁹ Cambodia Demographic and Health Survey 2010 p. 114

¹⁰ Cambodia Demographic and Health Survey 2010 p. 149

¹¹ Cambodia Demographic and Health Survey 2010 p. xxi

¹² National Strategic Development Plan Update 2009-2013

¹³ National Strategic Development Plan Update 2009-2013

¹⁴ Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA)

¹⁵ The Cambodia Development Effectiveness Report 2011

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CAMBODIA MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS





INTRODUCTION

In March 2011, UNDP Cambodia launched its new Country Programme 2011-2015 which focuses on accelerating progress of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) in the remaining years before the global deadline. The programme is built around the three core issues of inclusive growth, people participation, and environmental sustainability and resilience.

In our efforts to contribute to development results, we recognize that UNDP must stay agile and relevant, joining forces and resources with partners. As part of the development community, we enjoy strong relationships with our partners.

Our key areas are Poverty Reduction, Democratic Governance, Environment and Energy, and Climate Change. Promoting gender equality is a cross-cutting theme with focus on activities that are geared toward helping Cambodian women gain better socio-political status and greater economic empowerment. In 2011, we worked with the Government to capitalize on Cambodia's economic growth, focusing on ways to build human capital, to support agriculture productivity and industrial development. Our efforts in mine clearance saw land released to communities for agriculture and infrastructure, and we worked to improve livelihoods of rural Cambodians through sustainable, income-generating projects.



Set Khoeun, 48, checks the gourd he grows in his front yard of his house in Siem Reap province.

Support to decentralization reform and bringing democratic governance closer to the people was channelled through the Inter-commune Cooperation project. Produced together with the Government, Cambodia Human Development Report 2011 emphasized the importance of using an integrated approach to tackling climate change.

With the effects of climate change being felt right across the country, we targeted areas of greatest

need: water resources, agriculture, forestry and fisheries, and linked conservation with sustainable and innovative ways to improve livelihoods.

Bringing gender to the forefront of discussion at the highest levels was a special focus in 2011. Five environment and climate change initiatives were made more gender-sensitive and beneficial to women. Gender action plans were developed to improve women’s health and education, increase their incomes, and empower them to take lead roles.

We look forward to building on the solid foundations we have in place, and striving toward the Millennium Development Goals, so that every Cambodian man, woman and child can enjoy the benefits of a democratic society, a strong and inclusive economy and sustainable environment resilient to climate change.



Mut Phalla, left, and her granddaughter, plant vegetable near their home in Siem Reap province. The vegetable garden is irrigated by a drip irrigation system provided by a UNDP project.



POVERTY REDUCTION

THE IMPORTANCE OF DEVELOPING HUMAN CAPITAL

Cambodia's remarkable growth is more likely to be sustainable if it broadens its focus and emphasizes sustainable development of natural resources. To reach middle income country status, while sustaining progress towards poverty reduction, Cambodia needs to ensure that its medium-term growth strategy and interventions are more inclusive, more sustainable and are with stronger institutions.

Cambodia experienced rapid economic recovery in 2011, with GDP growth estimated at 7.1 percent. At this projected rate, Cambodia is set to reach lower Middle Income Country status in the next five to ten years. Because of this, the Government recognizes that it must diversify, and focus more on agriculture, industry and human capital. It recognizes that developing human capital is central to building the strong, qualified and skilled work force that Cambodia needs.

The spotlight is on developing skills, linking early child development, nutrition, health and primary education with improvements in technical and vocational training and higher education, and highlighting the importance of social protection. A workforce equipped with not just academic achievements, but also technical know-how and skills such as teamwork, self-discipline and problem solving, is what Cambodia really needs to put the country on a path of sustained growth. Science, technology and engineering in higher education also need to be advanced.

The 4th Cambodia Economic Forum on economic diversification and industrial development was held in February 2011. The conference laid

out the economic policy agenda that focuses on the importance of investing in education and skills. The forum helped put Cambodian citizens, their skills, knowledge and wellbeing at the centre of the policy discourse. Subsequently, UNDP-supported study on human capital for economic diversification helped outline possible directions and steps for the human capital roadmap.

The Institute of Technology of Cambodia (ITC) is set to re-establish its Department of Geo-resources and Geo-technical Engineering



Oeun Sohort, 24, earns income from repairing televisions at his home in Takeo province.

after closing it in the 1990s. ITC aims to play a key role in reducing poverty in Cambodia by providing students with cutting edge technical skills and know-how in geo-sciences and geo-technical engineering.

Education is critical to building a responsible mining, oil and gas sector in Cambodia. Cambodians will be equipped to make the right choices for an extractive industries sector that is dynamic, and socially and environmentally responsible.

MAKING RURAL LIVELIHOODS MORE SUSTAINABLE

In 2011, thousands of rural Cambodians benefitted from schemes that improve their livelihoods. The Cambodia Community-Based Adaptation Programme funded 45 projects to demonstrate climate-resilient techniques in both communities and at home.

These projects work in partnership with local NGOs and community-based organizations to improve villagers' capacity to anticipate and mitigate climate extremes. They introduced rice seeds that are resilient to drought and flood, and techniques to manage water resources for farming. The projects encouraged farmers to diversify agricultural practices such as rice intensification, vegetable gardening and livestock rearing, which are essential to improving their food security in the face of climate change.

The year 2011 marked the final year of a programme supporting indigenous populations to commercialize their cultural products. Communities were able to increase their income every month, produce and market more products, and create new market links with national buyers.

Indigenous cultural products were show-cased through the Indigenous Designer of the Year Competition and Exhibition. The five-week exhibition was held at the National Museum of Cambodia, in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts and the Ministry of Commerce. As a result of this event, indigenous products were ordered, via the Artisans' Association of Cambodia, to test the market in Germany.

"This is the first time that we are attempting to tackle the issue of human capital from the perspective of industrial development. It is a new step, a good beginning which, despite challenges ahead, would allow the Government to set better targets for policy interventions than before."

H.E. Ros Seilava, Deputy Secretary-General of the Supreme National Economic Council.

WEAVING THEIR WAY TO A BETTER LIFE

Weaving is part of the cultural identity of Ta Gnach village in Ratanakiri province, north-east Cambodia, the art being passed on from one generation to another. But recently, the villagers have begun learning new entrepreneurial concepts where they see quality control and marketing as key to selling their products.

Planh Proleav, from the Kroeung indigenous group, is one of 195 villagers in 10 villages that UNDP is helping find a better way to sell their handicrafts and improve their income. UNDP's intervention is part of the Creative Industries Support Programme, a multi-agency initiative.



Kul Pul, an indigenous Kroeung woman, works on a new handicraft product in Ratanakiri province.

In collaboration with the UN-Spain Millennium Development Goals Achievement Fund (MDG-F), the programme works to preserve and promote Cambodia's cultural heritage and the livelihoods of more than 800 indigenous and Khmer artisans. The programme works in four provinces: Kampong Thom, Preah Vihear, Mondulakiri and Ratanakiri.

In Ratanakiri, indigenous villagers found markets for their handicrafts with help from the Cambodian Non-Timber Forest Product Development Organization (CANDO). The NGO trained villagers in business planning, financial management, costing, quality control and marketing – knowledge that allows them to access wider markets.

"Through the training they now understand better the relationship between buying and selling, how to factor in raw materials, labour and production tools, and how to set the price of their products," said CANDO's Heng Socheath.

INDIGENOUS VILLAGERS WIN HANDICRAFT DESIGN COMPETITION

Three Cambodian handicraft makers from Ratanakiri province received awards for best design of indigenous handicraft products, during the closing ceremony of the Indigenous Designers of the Year Competition in October.

The competition showcased indigenous products in three categories: textile weaving, pottery and basketry, from 11 groups of producers.

Kamet Viek, an indigenous Kroeung woman from Pouy village, Ratanakiri province, won the top place in textile weaving. The award for the best basketry product went to Yorn Chieng, an indigenous Tumpuon villager from La Ern Kren village, Kon Mom district, Ratanakiri province. Nou Na, a villager of ethnic Lao decent from Kompong Cham village, Veunsai district, Ratanakiri province, won the award for best ceramic handicraft.

The judging panel included representatives of the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts, the Ministry of Commerce, the Artisans' Association of Cambodia and the joint-UN Creative Industries Support Programme, supported by the UN-Spain Millennium Development Goals Achievement Fund.

Speaking at the presentation, UN Resident Coordinator Douglas Broderick said the award served to recognize and raise awareness of "the unique and vivacious breadth of Cambodia's indigenous cultures, as well as the commercial potential of traditional indigenous products."

TRACKING PROGRESS ON THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

In recent years Cambodia has achieved critical progress in poverty reduction, together with significant progress on a number of MDGs. However, MDG progress varies across regions in the country.

Scorecards were developed to identify areas that needed most work to achieve the MDGs. The scorecards contain a wealth of information about socio-economic and demographic trends. In 2011, the Commune Database questionnaire was revised to improve comprehensiveness of data on agricultural production, climate change, education, women's economic empowerment, domestic violence and abuse, access to water and sanitation, and deaths by various causes. The information will be used to channel progress towards the MDGs.

SETTING AGENDAS FOR THE FUTURE AND MANAGING SECTORS RESPONSIBLY

The extractive industries sector is seen as a potential area for economic diversification. In 2011, the Government increased its level of interest and its readiness to work on key strategic policies in this area. Two particular areas are the development of an oil and gas policy framework with the Cambodian National Petroleum Authority, and a mineral policy with the Ministry of Industry, Mines and Energy.

Developing a petroleum policy is an important dimension in managing Cambodian petroleum resources, and a new step forward in developing its emerging oil and gas sector.

CLEARING LAND OF MINES FOR PRODUCTIVE USE BY COMMUNITIES

Cambodia made good progress in mine action in 2011, with the Government and operators increasing their mine clearance efforts.

There has been a sharp decrease in casualties in recent years, as a result of substantial efforts in mine clearance and educating people about the risks of mines. In 2011, Cambodia recorded the lowest number of land mines/UXOs casualties (211) in its history.

Cambodia has increased the productivity and efficiency of its mine action programme, and in 2011, through the "Clearing for Results – Phase II" project, 8.9 square kilometres of land were released in some of the most affected areas. The focus is now on making sure cleared land is released for communities to use productively.

"Having recently witnessed the adoption and entry into force of the Convention on Cluster Munitions in record time, [the 11th Meeting of States Parties] is also an opportunity to acknowledge the power of partnerships between states, civil society and international organizations in pursuing humanitarian diplomacy, which is preventive in nature and helps build a more peaceful and secure world."

*UNDP Administrator
Helen Clark*

“Without intensifying the speed and efficiency of the way in which we address our respective problems, our ultimate goal of a mine-free world will remain at a distance.”

Prime Minister Hun Sen

Cambodia hosted the 11th Meeting of States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention in November 2011, demonstrating the Government’s ability to play a leading role in mine action and to showcase Cambodia’s experiences in MDG 9 on de-mining. Opening the conference, Prime Minister Hun Sen urged stronger cooperation among all States Parties to the Convention, and stakeholders, in working together “towards our noble cause for a mine-free world”.

After the meeting Cambodia received financial pledges to clear land mines and use the land for development. Austria announced a contribution of EUR 400,000 to de-mining and victim assistance in Cambodia, New Zealand will contribute more than \$1 million in 2012 for a de-mining project in the north-east of the country, and Spain pledged some EUR 400,000.

Last year, 3,329 rural Cambodian families received cleared land to build houses and use for farming. Another 41,951 households, totalling 205,370 people, benefited from the land being cleared, as it was used to build roads, pagodas and schools.

UNDP Administrator Helen Clark made an opening address at the November’s Mine Ban Convention Conference and brought the attention to the need for even stronger advocacy to clear the world from anti-personnel mines forever. She also met Prime Minister Hun Sen to discuss Cambodia’s and UNDP’s ongoing work to clear land mines. Ms. Clark highlighted the strong link between effective mine action and progress on the Millennium Development Goals. She said the conference in Phnom Penh was an opportunity to celebrate progress in overcoming the menace of antipersonnel mines, and to acknowledge that much work still remains to rid the world of them.

IMPROVING OWNERSHIP, EFFECTIVENESS AND COORDINATION OF AID



Thong Yeuy, 42, picks pineapple in her farm in Battambang province. The land was once infested with landmines but mine clearance has enabled villagers in the province to diversify crops to earn more income.

There has been a marked increase in the capacity of the Government and the Council for Development of Cambodia in leading the agenda on aid effectiveness.

Programme-Based Approaches (PBA) were developed to keep national and external resources fully aligned with government budget. They strengthen government systems for programming, planning, monitoring and coordination and resource mobilization in a number

of areas, including gender, fisheries and forestry administration and de-mining.

Cambodia is recognized at the global level as a lead contributor to the development of aid management policy, governance and monitoring. Its Official Development Assistance database has been cited as an example of global best practice.



Chan Veasna pumps water into a tank to irrigate a vegetable garden of his family in Siem Reap province.

RESULTS :

- The government released the Mid-Term Review of the National Strategic Development Plan, in preparation for the MDG Update. It focused on strengthening monitoring and identifying actions to accelerate achievement of CMDGs
- An MDG acceleration dialogue helped build consensus on key investments needed to accelerate progress in de-mining (CMDG 9)
- Some 900 local councillors began using CMDG scorecards to prepare provincial and district plans and budgets
- The Human Capital report, linking education and technical vocational training to economic diversification and skills acquisition, was launched as a follow-up action of the 4th Cambodia Economic Forum. The next step will be to prepare the country's first Human Capital Roadmap
- The 11th Meeting of States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Convention was successfully organized. Finland joined the list of countries that adhere to the convention. Austria signed the Partnership Principles and made financial contributions for mine action
- US\$17 million was mobilized to support the mine action sector in Cambodia



DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

Good governance is a precondition for development across all sectors in Cambodia. For this reason, a large part of UNDP's work is in governance.

Our focus is on making sure mechanisms for dialogue, participation and representation are effective, so that all people have a say in democratic decision-making. Women's involvement in both national and local decision-making processes is particularly important.

Efforts are underway to promote and enhance dialogue and access to information between public institutions, civil society, the Senate and commune/sangkat councils. One important platform is the provincial and district forum which allows citizens to voice their concerns and increase interaction with elected bodies, local authorities, public institutions and civil society.

BUILDING MORE RESPONSIVE LOCAL GOVERNANCE

Last year saw the conclusion of the Inter-Commune Cooperation (ICC) project. The scheme encouraged commune councils, which normally have limited budget, to work together to bring the most benefit to their communities. It provided technical assistance and grants to projects that focused on small-scale infrastructure and social services in 12 provinces.



Villagers participate in an outdoor meeting to discuss development planning with commune officials in Koh Kong province.

The scheme also contributed to national policies for democratic development, capacity development at central and local levels, and setting up Cambodia's new association of local councils.

PARTICIPATION AND REPRESENTATION

In 2011, two main political parties, the Cambodian People's Party and the Sam Rainsy Party, developed

gender strategies and set targets of 30 percent and 15 percent respectively to increase the number of female candidates in the 2012 commune council elections.

In 2011, electoral reforms saw the extension of the validity of national ID cards, the extension of the voter registration period and the introduction of an improved temporary ID form.

UNDP focused primarily on advocacy, particularly with regard to registering voters from disadvantaged groups such as people with disabilities, indigenous populations, ethnic minorities, homeless people and migrant workers.

CREATING SPACE FOR DEMOCRATIC DEBATE

Youth in Cambodia are keen to play an active role in shaping their society. The 2010 Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices study into youth civic participation showed that Cambodian youth are optimistic about their future and the future of their country, but face many barriers participating.

The media offers a platform for young people to interact with the wider society. It is an effective channel to deliver civic education in a more entertaining and informal way, and to inspire a dynamic youth population. The Really! youth radio phone-in show was on air from April, with 25 episodes covering topics such as teamwork, self-expression and voting.

The Equity Weekly television programme broadcast 50 shows highlighting issues of political, social, economic and environmental importance to Cambodia. A 2011 survey showed that a wide spectrum of policy-makers, parliamentarians and other democratic stakeholders accepted and appreciated the show. The show is a vital source of information about current affairs in Cambodia.

An effective network for communication began between indigenous peoples across the country. A consultation on indigenous language radio and community media in Cambodia was very useful for sharing information with government officials about different models of indigenous language and community media.

RESULTS :

- The National League of Communes/Sangkats, representing all 1,633 communes and sangkats, finalized its second strategic plan (2011-2015)
- Provincial Associations of Commune/Sangkats have been established in all 23 provinces and the capital
- The National League for Communes/Sangkats is a permanent member of sub-committees of the National Committee for Democratic Development at the sub-national level, and plays an important role in the policy dialogue and reform process on decentralization and local governance
- Management systems and regulations have been designed to help sub-national administrative bodies, and the national league and provincial associations, better respond to clients' needs and to plan, manage, monitor and report on activities, results and use of resources

NEW BRIDGE OFFERS EASIER PASSAGE FOR CAMBODIAN VILLAGERS

When So Phorn gave birth to her first child three years ago, she rode on the back of the motorbike driven by her neighbour from her house to a river, where she transferred to a ferry to get across. At the other side of the river, she was loaded onto a rickshaw powered by a motorbike to go to a health centre in Boeung Preav commune. The trip took her nearly two hours.

"It was a very difficult trip," So Phorn said. So Phorn, 26, who lives in Chroy Svay commune, Koh Kong province, is expecting her second child, but this time she hopes her journey will be easier and much less time consuming. Thanks to a new concrete bridge, crossing the 40-metre wide Kampong Sdam River is now much easier than it was. The bridge was built with funds from the Inter-commune Cooperation project.

For the 10,000 residents of Chroy Svay and Boeung Preav communes that are separated by the river, daily life has become much simpler with the bridge.

"It used to be very difficult without a bridge. I had to transfer goods several times from my cart to a boat and then from the boat to my cart before I could reach my house," said 31-year-old Neng Chhun who runs a small grocery store at his home in Chroy Svay commune.

The new bridge also means an end to virtual isolation for the residents of Chroy Svay commune. The commune, on the west side of the river, does not have a hospital and residents had to travel to Boeung Preav or Sre Ambel communes, 17 kilometers away on the east side of the river.

"At night time, people with goods could not cross the bridge and some even fell down with their motor into the river. That was why the bridge was the highest demand by the people," said Hay Sin, Chroy Svay commune chief.



The old bridge at Kampong Sdam river in Koh Kong province.



A new concrete bridge crossing Kampong Sdam river provides a smoother passage for villagers in Koh Kong province.

In 2010, he invited the chief of his neighbouring commune Boeung Preav to pool money from their modest local budget and draw up a joint proposal to access funding from the ICC. Their scheme received US\$40,000 to build the bridge.

"As commune councils, we should not think only about our own communities. We can work together to bring benefits for all the people," he said.

For So Phorn, with the birth of her new baby approaching, the prospect of reaching the hospital in only 30 minutes, thanks to the new bridge, gives her great confidence.

A NEW SCHOOL, CLOSE TO HOME

Mother of seven, Soy Pheap, made a tough decision several years ago when one of her daughters began secondary school. With no school in her village in Banteay Meanchey province, she decided to send her daughter to live with her grandmother, 130 kilometres away in Battambang, so she could continue to study.

But the 39-year-old doesn't need to make that choice for her younger daughter, now that the new Tuol Pongro Secondary School is open.

In the past, many of the children had to make the two-way eight-kilometre trip every day to attend secondary school in another commune. Some simply dropped out of school to herd cattle or work in the rice fields with their parents.

Responding to the plight of the children, local officials planned to build a new school. Kim Morn, the Tuol Pongro commune chief, secured a piece of land that had been cleared of land mines. But instead of going it alone, he decided to team up with councillors in the neighbouring O Sampor commune.

"When we knew that there was funding available from the Inter-Commune Cooperation project, our two communes worked together to request money from the fund. Then we got it," said Kim Morn.

The proposal from the two communes was awarded \$37,820 from the fund. They also collected an additional \$300 in contributions from the villagers. But the total was only enough to build four of the 10 classrooms they needed. So both communes had to raise more money.

Having met the main criteria of a transparent bidding process, the two communes were able to attract an additional \$70,000 funding to complete the school, from the Cambodia Mines-remove Campaign (CMC), a Japanese humanitarian de-mining group.



A new school built by an EU-funded project helps improve access to education for children in a remote village in northwestern Cambodia.



Students learn in a new school classroom built by an EU-funded project.

"Local councils in Cambodia are still weak administratively and financially, so it will be a greater benefit to their communities if they can work together like this one," said Hiroshi Ake, Country Director of CMC.

He said his group decided to support the initiative due to the level of trust and transparent bidding demonstrated by the two communes.

Soy Pheap is thrilled to have her daughter at school close by. "The new school is quite near to my house now, so I will just send her to study there instead of to Battambang," she said.



ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

“The vivid picture of the victims of the floods is more than enough for us all to urgently and immediately act to mitigate the suffering and to strengthen people’s resilience and adaptive capacity under climate change conditions. If we are to think of the future of our children, we must switch our development path into a greener, low-carbon and more climate-resilient mode.”

*H.E. Dr. Mok Mareth,
Senior Minister and
Minister of Environment.*

Cambodia’s environment is increasingly under pressure from both rapid economic development and climate change.

To respond to climate change Cambodia must develop human resources and institutions, do research, apply appropriate technology, and mobilize funds. This needs to be done particularly in the sectors that are the backbones of the national economy, such as agriculture, water resources, fisheries, forestry, energy and physical infrastructure.

In 2011, floods affected 1.5 million people and destroyed at least 9.4 percent of crops, further raising the profile of climate change and disaster risk reduction on the national development agenda.

Work is being done to increase communities’ preparedness and resilience. Already, grants of \$4.3 million have been approved for 341 community resilience initiatives, and climate change has been integrated into the investment plans of 85 communes.

CONSERVATION AND USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Proper management of water resources, agriculture, forestry and fisheries is essential for rural communities in Cambodia to deal with the effects of climate change.

Planning and action at the local level of government is important to help the poor become resilient, not only in responding to the impacts of climate change, but also in recovering from any future natural disaster or economic crisis.

Criminal activity in forests is a serious problem. In 2011, local forest rangers and patrolmen were trained in forest patrol and wildlife monitoring, and in reporting forest crimes such as illegal logging and poaching wildlife. Sustained advocacy has reduced illegal logging in the Preah Vihear



A hose brings water to a rice field from a nearby canal in Svay Rieng province. The canal has been dredged with support from UNDP to help villagers boost rice farming.

Protected Forest, and advocacy has helped control the threat of new military social land concessions.

The number of families participating in the cultivation of wildlife-friendly rice – a scheme that worked to protect the population of Ibis in the northern plains of Cambodia – tripled to 18.7 percent in 2010-2011, from 6.4 percent in 2008-2009. The overall sales of rice, which is known as Ibis Rice, rose in value in 2011 to \$60,000, from \$36,600 in 2010.

Last year saw the launch of the “Sustainable Forest Management” project which targets four Cambodian provinces: Kampong Speu, Kampong Chhnang, Pursat and Battambang. These provinces are home to forests with biodiversity of global significance that can act as major carbon reserves.

One of the aims of the project is to establish and manage forest-based businesses in 30 community forests and 10 community protected areas. The project will contribute to the Government’s national forestry programme to establish two million hectares of community forestry sites throughout the country by 2029.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change is expected to compound development challenges in Cambodia. To assist the Government to address these challenges, the Cambodia Climate Change Alliance (CCCA) Trust Fund has been established in partnership between UNDP, the European Union, Sweden and Danish International Development Agency (Danida). A roadmap for the development of the Cambodia Climate Change Strategic Plan was developed to support the mainstreaming of climate change into key development sectors. The cross-sectoral stakeholder meeting held in late 2011 resulted in identification of 17 priority areas for conducting climate change mainstreaming.

The CCCA team also worked closely with both National Climate Change Committee to promote climate mainstreaming, capacity building and networking.

The CCCA Trust Fund awarded grants to eight projects – six of government bodies and two of civil society organizations. The projects cover 10 provinces and work to address a range of issues such as urban planning, fisheries management, protected areas, community forestry management, community development, rice production and sub-national planning.

Cambodia is one of few countries that are currently working on building capacity to mobilize and manage climate change resources that may become a reality in the years to come. The Public Expenditure and Institutional Review of CC Finance has been an important step in this direction.

In October 2011, the Second National Forum on Climate Change was held and re-emphasized the need for a broad-based and cohesive response to climate change impacts.

RESULTS :

- The Second National Forum on Climate Change in October brought together climate change practitioners, policy-makers and planners. As a result of their discussions, fighting climate change was recognized as a part of development work that requires a broad-based response.
- Some 50 national and international NGOs and government institutions were awarded small grants of \$50,000 and medium grants of up to \$300,000 to promote community-based adaptation and field-based climate change responses throughout Cambodia. It is hoped the lessons learned from these interventions will influence climate change policy.
- In 2011, 46 small grant projects to promote community adaptation to climate change were approved, and 353 villages received support for climate-resilient techniques at both community and household levels.
- Climate Change awareness-raising workshops gave 97 commune council members a better understanding of the impacts of climate change.

The launch of the Cambodia Human Development Report on Climate Change was a key knowledge product ever published on climate change in Cambodia as a useful advocacy tool for policy decision making and planning.

PROMOTING CLIMATE RESILIENT AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES

UNDP and the Global Environment Facility are funding the first follow-up project from the Cambodia National Adaptation Programme of Actions (NAPA) focusing on promoting climate resilience in agriculture and water sector. The project is carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology, and Ministry of Women's Affairs.

A Vulnerability Reduction Assessment in 2011 resulted in an integration of climate change priorities into the development plan and investment program (2011-2014) of the two targeted provinces – Kratie and Preah Vihear. In addition to that, the first ever curriculum on resilient irrigation was developed and training was given to government staff tasked with irrigation planning and implementation.

COMMUNITY BASED ADAPTATION PROGRAMME

With funding from the Swedish government and the Australian Aid, UNDP, through the Small Grants Programme, awarded 46 projects to 38 local NGOs and 8 community-based organisations to implement measures aimed at building resilience of communities vulnerable to impacts of climate change. Those communities are located in 353 villages, 97 communes, 48 districts and 18 provinces in Cambodia. Through the projects:

- 60,173 families benefited from the rehabilitation of small irrigation systems (11,978 ha for dry season rice and 29,817 ha for rainy season rice)
- 185 community and household ponds were rehabilitated
- 69 farmer water user groups (FWUG) were established
- More than 270 Women Saving groups, 47 rice banks and 15 cow banks were established
- 18 community fisheries and 16 community forestry received official recognition from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
- 8,048 villagers were trained on agricultural resilience techniques
- 34,628 participants from the targeted communities participated in awareness raising activities.

UN-REDD PROGRAMME

The UN-REDD Programme is a collaboration between the Government, FAO, UNDP and UNEP to enable Cambodia to be ready for REDD+ implementation, including development of necessary institutions, policies and capacity. The programme, launched in August 2011, helps Cambodia to recognize biodiversity conservation co-benefit and to achieve its national target of maintaining 60% forest cover, a key indicator in the Cambodia Millennium Development Goal 7. In 2011, the Programme awarded two small grants to pilot projects on community forestry and protected forest in Oddar Meanchey and Mondul Kiri provinces.

PIPE WATER SYSTEM OFFERS VILLAGERS A FRESH START

Rows of water convolvulus, cabbage and radish are filling up space in the 300-square meter plot of land in Kri Ven's backyard, after his home was connected to a pipe water system.

"I am happy to have my own farm to grow vegetables for a living," said 28-year-old Kri Ven of Chambok commune, Kampong Speu province.

In this commune, about 120 kilometres west of Phnom Penh, the days of water shortages are over. A pipe water system, previously only available to city residents, has come to the rural homes of 600 families, and villagers are wasting no time turning their backyards into vegetable gardens to feed themselves and make money to support their families.

The pipe system was built with funds from a project that assists rural communities in Cambodia to adapt to climate change. The project, funded by the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) and implemented by UNDP, helps reduce the villagers' reliance on rainfall for farming.

In the dry season, clean water used to be a rare commodity and villagers spent an average of two hours a day getting water from streams or wells. "It was very difficult, getting water before. My husband had no free time because he had to collect water from the well for cooking, drinking and washing," said Ros Heng, a 29-year-old mother of three children.

In November 2011, work was completed on a 20-kilometer pipe network to channel water from the waterfall. Each of the 600 families in the commune is now hooked to the main system. The new system provides the villagers with water all year round to grow crops and vegetables, and to improve their livelihoods and resilience to climate change.

Touch Morn, the head of the Chambok Eco-Tourism Community, said the benefits of the pipe water system are much greater than just helping families earn money. He said children now spend more time on studies, as they no longer need to fetch water for their families.

The water system has also improved the villagers' hygiene. The number of families with toilets has increased and villagers can bathe more often.

"We can see a lot of changes in people's habits. In my village alone, the number of family toilets has increased to 20 now, from only two before," said Touch Morn.

Kri Ven recalled that, due to lack of water in previous dry seasons, he simply left the land in his backyard to be taken over by weeds while he went to drive a tractor for a local businessman to make a living. But soon after his home was connected to the pipe water network, he quit the job to work for himself.



Villagers install pipe to bring clean water from a nearby waterfall into villagers' homes in Kampong Speu province. Photo: Mlub Baitong

SAVING CAMBODIA'S FORESTS

A UNDP-Global Environment Facility project worth more than \$3.8 million is set to help Cambodia preserve its forests, benefit the rural poor and contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The Sustainable Forest Management project is being implemented by Cambodia's Forestry Administration.

The Government aims to establish two million hectares of community forestry sites throughout the country by 2029. Currently there are 430 community forestry sites covering some 400,000 hectares of forest area, about one-fifth of the overall target.

To help prevent further forest degradation, the project, running through February 2015, will work to establish and manage forest-based businesses in approximately 30 community forests and 10 community protected areas. Villagers, particularly women, will learn to produce energy-efficient cook stoves, to generate income and help reduce consumption of firewood.

Forests contribute 30 to 40 percent to household livelihoods of people living near them. Although not a major greenhouse gas emitter, Cambodia is vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, but public awareness of the issue remains low.

Amid the increasing impact of climate change, the UN General Assembly declared 2011 the International Year of Forests, to raise awareness on sustainable forest management. In Cambodia, this emphasizes how proper forest management can contribute to reducing poverty and help the Government achieve one of the main Cambodia Millennium Development Goals, to maintain 60 percent forest cover.



View from the ground of a tree in the biggest forestry community in Oddar Meanchey province.

VILLAGERS' DELIGHT OVER RESTORED WATER RESERVOIR TO BOOST FARMING

Svay Rieng – Farmers in the small community of Tuol Sdey, in the Svay Rieng province of south-eastern Cambodia, have reason to be happy. For the first time in decades they can rejoice in having two harvests in one season.

This is largely due to the construction of a new water dam which stores rain in a nearby reservoir, providing farmers with the necessary water supply to irrigate their farmland and produce greater rice yields.

The new dam is one of 45 projects in Cambodia—implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Global Environment Facility—aiming at improving the lives of people adversely affected by droughts and other climate change-related phenomena.

Before the dam was constructed, villagers suffered from major water shortages, forcing large numbers of hungry people to wander off to neighboring villages in search of work as daily laborers, at times traveling as far as Vietnam where they often ended up begging. Even children had to abandon school to venture off with their parents as they pursued a means to support themselves.

"We used to have many people migrating out of the villages. I'm talking about groups of families leaving to the extent that the villages became so quiet," said Sok Sek, the community chief, adding that things improved enormously after the construction of the dam was completed in May 2011.

Standing at more than two meters high and 32 meters wide, the dam is actually a large concrete wall which functions as a spillway to preserve water in the nearby Bathou Lake, the heart of a sprawling lowland area which holds the key to economic survival of 2,500 people in the community. There used to be a metal gate under the village's main bridge, but corrosion destroyed it, leaving an open gap for rain water to flow downstream. Little of it could be tapped for farming.

The spillway and over 40 other similar projects in the country have received funding from the Swedish government and Australian Agency for International Development. Tuol Sdey commune's residents – most of whom live in mud houses – also managed to raise US\$1,200 for the spillway, out of its total cost of \$20,800—mainly funded by a Swedish government grant.

"When we did not have this spillway built, we were able to grow one rice crop per season. The yield was just barely enough to pay for fertilizer and diesel to operate the generator to pump water into the field," said Pov Morn, 57, a villager.



Farmers harvest rice in Tuol Sdey commune where a recently built water dam allows the villagers to plant rice two times per season.



A water dam built with support from a joint project of UNDP and GEF allows residents in Kampong Sdey commune, Svay Rieng province, to improve food security by growing rice two times, instead of one, per season.

Now things look brighter for the community. Neang Tey, who used to beg for a living in Vietnam, lives by herself in a hut on the edge of a paddy field. For the first time, she managed to plant two crops on a small plot and produced one ton of rice. It won't make her rich but she said is enough for her to live on until the next harvest. "I don't need to go begging anymore," Neang said.

UNDP's work in Cambodia concentrates on three major areas: promoting democratic governance, poverty reduction, and environmental management. The objective is to encourage sustainable development and assist the government in designing and implementing policies which will help speed up progress towards reaching the Millennium Development Goals.



PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY

“Sustainable solutions to empower women economically are essential for the advancement of Cambodia. They are essential in light of the need to accelerate the achievement of the MDGs, and they are even more essential in the context of economic uncertainty.”

*H.E. Dr. Ing Kantha Phavi,
Minister of Women’s Affairs.*

When development efforts fully include the perspectives and participation of women, they have the best possible chance of delivering progress for all. UNDP works to strengthen women’s economic empowerment, political leadership and women in decision making.

Despite considerable progress in policies, gender gaps remain. Fewer women than men hold decision-making positions in public and private sectors, and fewer girls than boys continue onto higher education. In the current labour force, women are more likely to be illiterate or have lower skills than men.

The Ministry of Women’s Affairs is working to ensure that gender-sensitive policies and plans are implemented, and that they impact on the status, rights and choices of Cambodian women. The aim is to increase women’s participation in decision-making and access to decently paid jobs, include their voices in local development plans, and identify smart investments to accelerate CMDG achievements.

UNDP supported the ministry in organizing the East Asia Ministerial Summit on Gender Equality, which attracted delegates from 16 Asian countries. The meeting looked at increasing the role of women in building resilience to economic and environmental crises, increasing women’s contribution to growth and development, empowering them against hardship through a green economy, a better work-life balance, more gender-sensitive migration policies and broader and more secure economic opportunities.

Under the ministry’s leadership, UNDP and UNFPA supported a feasibility study on a One-Stop Service Centre (OSSC) to serve women and people who suffer from gender-based violence. It was an in-depth assessment of existing services in health, counselling, prevention and protection measures, and resources needed to establish an OSSC in Cambodia.

Promoting gender mainstreaming in public administration, especially at sub-national levels, is high on the Government’s agenda. To promote long-term gender equality, the Government is drawing up a new statute to ensure female representation in civil service and decision-making.

CAMBODIAN WOMEN GET A NEW LEASE OF LIFE

Kong Theara beamed as she accepted a sewing machine for graduating at the top of her sewing class. She spoke of her plans to set up a tailoring shop and about a new, better life she hopes the business will bring.

"I don't think I will be poor anymore in the future," the 22-year old said.

She is one of 17 women who completed a dressmaking course at the Women's Association for Peace and Development, an NGO in Kampong Cham province.



Women receive training in tailoring through the support of a UNDP project in Kampong Cham province.

The six-month course was a joint effort between the EU and UNDP through the Inter-Commune Cooperation project, which helps local councils pool ideas and funds to address the needs of local residents.

In Kampong Cham, leaders of four neighbouring communes agreed to make training in dressmaking a priority to help women in their communities earn money.

"A tailoring business needs little capital to start with. A poor family with a sewing machine can make money from making shirts or skirts. Also, they don't need to go far from their home and low-educated girls can easily learn the skills," said Dong Sopha, the chief of Lnieng commune.

Under the initiative, the four communes drew up a joint proposal which was awarded \$5,180 from the ICC fund. Training began in December 2010, and when they graduated in May 2011, the women received a sewing machine and other tools required to set up a tailoring business.

"All trainees are from poor families. If they have only skills but no means, they would end up migrating to work as garment workers like before. But with the sewing machine, they can use it to make money without having to leave their homes," said So Samuth, the head of the training centre. Some of the graduates said they planned to team up and set up a tailoring business.



WORKING TOGETHER

All UNDP activities are done in close collaboration with the Government, other UN agencies and development partners. Partnerships with the European Union, Sweden, Spain, Australia, New Zealand and Canada were instrumental for achieving results in 2011.

UNDP partnered 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. It worked with provincial governors and line departments of national ministries.

UNDP worked closely with the Supreme National Economic Council, the National Election Committee, the Cambodia National Mekong Committee, the Cambodian National Petroleum Authority, the Council for Agriculture and Rural Development, the Cambodia Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority, national station TVK and the Cambodian Rehabilitation and Development Board of the Council for the Development of Cambodia. It also worked with the Wildlife Conservation Society, the Committee for Free and Fair Elections, and many other local NGOs.

The 2011-2015 UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) is anchored in, and aligned with, the Government's Rectangular Strategy Phase II and the National Strategic Development Plan (now extended to 2013). It builds on the achievements and progress made over the last decade and leverages the UN's position as a trusted and neutral partner. The UN Country Team adopted a human rights-based approach to the country analysis, and to advocate for priorities in the National Development framework. These principles require a specific focus on the marginalized, the disadvantaged and the excluded, and form one of the core programming principles of the UNDAF.

In 2011, UNDP employed 117 national and 16 international staff. Of these, 62 were women compared with 46 in 2010.

UNDP facilitated procurement of goods and services amounting to approximately US\$ 8.4 million, which included contracting individuals and organizations to provide professional and consulting services to UNDP and UN agencies.

The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme is the UN organization that contributes to peace and development through volunteerism worldwide.

In 2011, 32 international and five national UN Volunteers served in 12 UN agencies, as well as within ministries in Cambodia, working in the areas of communications and advocacy, on improving governance and human rights, on gender issues, poverty reduction, labour rights, refugee protection, food security, social protection and social policy, climate change, aid effectiveness and volunteerism. In addition, nine Cambodian nationals were serving as UN Volunteers in different UN missions in Africa, including the Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia, Rwanda and Sudan.



UN Volunteers get their hands and feet dirty as they mingle with villagers to plant mangroves in a coastal village in southern Cambodia.

BREAKING NEW GROUND IN SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

UNDP's partnerships with countries in the Asian region and beyond offer Cambodians greater opportunities to extend and learn from the experiences of others.

- *Thirty Cambodian agriculture practitioners went to China for three weeks to learn about cassava cultivation techniques. Through field study and classroom training, the participants were shown land-preparation techniques, pest management, harvesting, and soil and water management.*
- *Twenty-five Cambodian policy-makers and planners from ministerial and provincial levels spent five days in southern Vietnam to learn about good practices and lessons on climate resilient irrigation systems in flood-prone areas, appropriate agriculture techniques, efficient and effective water resource management for disaster risk reduction, soil conservation and early warning systems.*
- *A number of Cambodian Indigenous NGOs learnt about the development of community media for indigenous groups from Lao PDR and Thailand.*
- *Policy-makers and parliamentarians from the Philippines and Argentina came to Cambodia to share experiences on politics and women's political participation with Cambodian political parties, civil society organizations and youth groups.*
- *Ten officials visited Indonesia to look at Indonesian Local Government Associations (LGAs). The trip gave the officials an opportunity to learn about the establishment and functioning of LGAs in different tiers of local government and councils, and their key roles and functions in the perspective of Indonesian decentralization reform.*
- *In August 2011, officials from the Cambodian National Petroleum Authority (CNPA) visited Timor-Leste to learn about the work of the Timor-Leste Petroleum Authority, as well as the country's experiences in managing petroleum contracts and revenue.*
- *Four officials travelled to Laos in November 2011 to learn about mineral resource management. They visited some important mining sites to understand key challenges as well as best practices and international standards in management of mining activities, and community development by mining companies.*
- *Cambodia's accomplishments in de-mining were among the key highlights at the 11th Meeting of States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention that the country hosted in November. Cambodia took the opportunity to share its progress and challenges with other mine-affected nations, and to renew calls for the international community not to waiver in its support for global mine action.*



DONORS AND PROGRAMME EXPENDITURE

SUPPORT FROM DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS	
UNDP (Core funding)	5,485,225
SIDA (Sweden)	4,026,009
AusAID (Australia)	2,685,396
EU (European Union)	2,184,346
CIDA (Canada) including DFAIT	2,004,140
GEF (Global Environment Facility)	1,584,134
DANIDA	564,565
New Zealand	460,882
Spain	305,315
DGTTF	250,000
Norway and Norad	216,718
DFID	150,577
UN-REDD	62,607
UNDP 11888	34,052
Oxfam America	27,634
UNFPA	21,400
TTF HIV/AIDS Regional Centre	11,253
FRANCE	10,887
Gender Equality Fund (Regional)	9,627
UNAIDS	2,000
Ireland	120
Total (US\$ million)	20,096,888



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Resilient nations.*

United Nations Development Programme

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