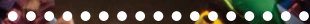




UNITED NATIONS  
CAMBODIA



# ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT

2024

PUBLISHED MARCH 2025

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The initial design and layout of this report were created by **Andrew Netya** during his online United Nations Volunteers' assignment in March 2025.



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# Foreword

Reflecting on the past year's progress, this Annual Results Report highlights the joint efforts of the UN Country Team (UNCT), the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC), and partners in accelerating progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Cambodia's transition from Least Developed Country (LDC) status.

The UNCT mobilized collective efforts to support addressing interconnected development priorities. Through the Joint SDG Fund, the UN supported the RGC in launching major initiatives, including the National Roadmap for the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protections, Transforming Food Systems, and Accelerating Energy Efficiency. The UN leveraged expertise and partnerships to support the RGC in convening stakeholders for developing Cambodia's Nationally Determined Contribution 3.0 (NDC 3.0) to combat climate change. The Early Warnings for All National Roadmap was adopted to enhance disaster preparedness.

The 2024 UNCT Annual Dialogue with the Prime Minister provided an excellent platform to reflect on transformational policy recommendations, including transforming education and skills development, to support Cambodia's transition from LDC status by 2029.

The UNCT leveraged its convening role on complex development issues, such as SDGs-Human Rights dialogues to address transnational crimes and multi-stakeholder dialogues on microfinance to safeguard vulnerable borrowers and promote ethical financial practices.

The UN mobilized joint advocacy for gender equality, disability inclusion, LNOB principles, and addressing statelessness. With UN support, the RGC actively engaged in the Universal Periodic Review and accepted 232 recommendations. Partnering with the private sector, efforts tackled harmful workplace

gender norms. The National Disability Strategic Plan 2024-2028 was adopted, and social protection systems were expanded for persons with disabilities and persons living with HIV. With the support of the UN and other partners, the civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) system was gradually enhanced, improving equitable access to legal documentation, especially for vulnerable communities.

In 2024, the UN also deepened partnerships with the private sector, communities, media, and youth to promote engagement in SDG initiatives. The UN mobilized youth to engage in dialogues on the Pact of the Future and the Declaration on Future Generations. The UN and AEON MALL (Cambodia) hosted Together Actions for SDGs, supported by the Prime Minister via a video message calling for joint actions from all stakeholders.

In transitional justice, the UN engaged with the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) and partners to conceptualize a legacy institution to preserve, enhance, and disseminate the ECCC's valuable legacy. This effort gained momentum in July 2024 when the Prime Minister announced the government's decision to establish a "State Institute in charge of the ECCC Legacy."

The UN in Cambodia continued its engagement with the RGC in promoting multilateralism and international peace by deploying Cambodia's peacekeepers to conflict areas.

Looking ahead, the UN's analysis of SDG progress, combined with other studies such as the LNOB analysis, conducted in 2024, provides evidence to support informed policy decisions. The UN in Cambodia will leverage joint partnerships with all stakeholders and further mobilize UN technical expertise to accelerate the progress of all SDGs and enhance the well-being of all people in Cambodia.

**Jo Scheuer**  
United Nations Resident Coordinator  
Cambodia



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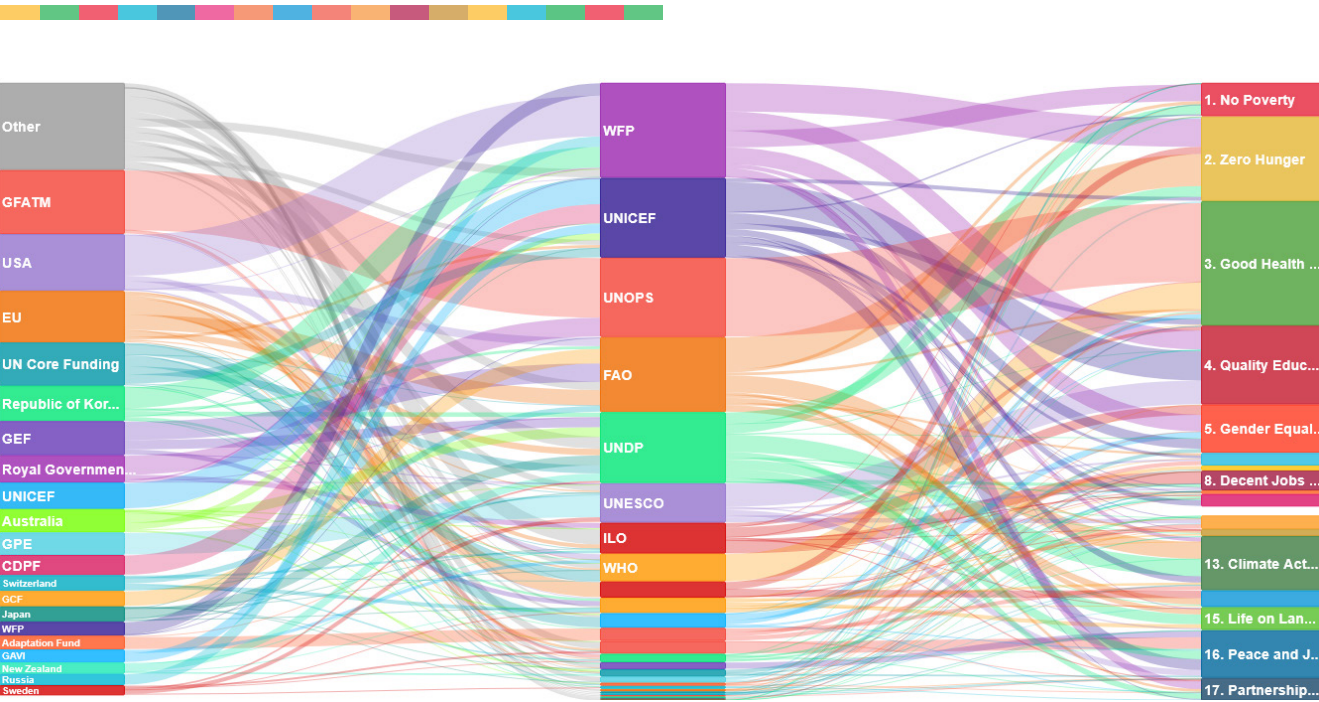


# Key Development Partners

(In alphabetical order)



# Linking Investments, Partners and the Sustainable Development Goals in Cambodia in 2024



This chart displays the top 20 contributors in the left side. It excludes some contributing partners and agencies due to data visualization limitations. For more details, please download the UN team's joint workplan from the [Data Explorer](#)



# CHAPTER 1

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN CAMBODIA IN 2024



**US\$ 12.03 billion**

Cambodia's public debt up from US\$ 11.24 billion in 2023.



**56.9%**

Increase of the country's Human Development Index since 1990

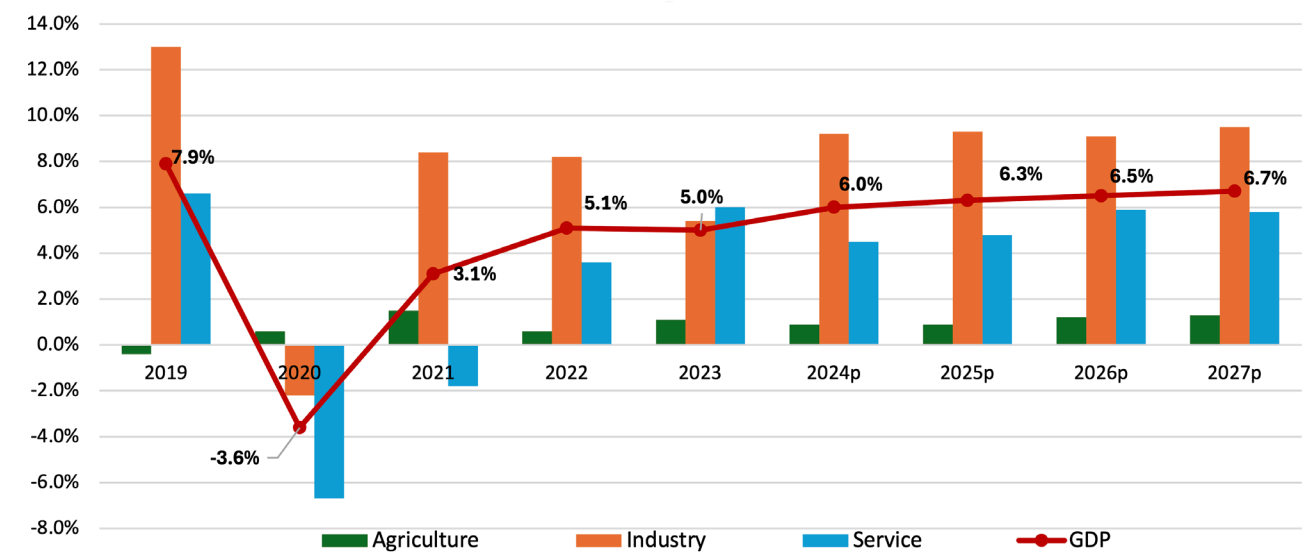


**37% ↘ 17%**

The incidence of multidimensional poverty was halved, dropping from 37% to 17% between 2014 and 2022

In December 2024, the UN General Assembly adopted resolution A/79/L.42 on the graduation of Cambodia from the category of least developed countries, granting a five-year preparatory period.

Figure 1: GDP growth by sectors



**Source:** The Macroeconomic Framework for 2025 and the Medium-Term Fiscal Framework 2025-2027 (2014 as the new base year)



## Economic Performance

Cambodia's post-pandemic recovery continues, with **economic growth projected at 6.0 per cent** in 2024, following 5.1 per cent in 2022 and 5.0 per cent in 2023. The industrial sector, particularly garment and textiles manufacturing (16.9 per cent), is driving growth, while non-garment manufacturing (7.1 per cent) is slowing. The services sector remains a key contributor but is weakening, with slower recovery in accommodation, food services (12.9 per cent), and trade (3.9 per cent), reflecting sluggish tourism. Agriculture shows **steady progress in crop production** (1.6 per cent) and fisheries (0.9 per cent), though livestock and poultry (-1.9 per cent) continue to decline.

While diversification and external trade opportunities continue to support growth, global uncertainty and structural challenges such as low productivity and skill gaps remain key areas for policy focus.

The Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) is **adopting a fiscal consolidation approach in 2024**, with conservative domestic revenue projected at 14.67 per cent of GDP and KHR 440 billion (US\$110 million) in bond issuances. **Public expenditure will be 18 per cent of GDP**, focusing on institutional capacity and public service delivery, while the fiscal deficit is expected to narrow to -2.97 per cent of GDP. **Public debt has risen to US\$ 12.03 billion**, with 99 per cent being external, primarily from bilateral (62 per cent) and multilateral (38 per cent) partners, with China holding the largest share (34 per cent).

 **6.0%**  
Estimated GDP growth rate in 2024

 **9.2%**  
Growth rate in Industry sector


 **0.9%**  
Growth rate in Agriculture sector

 **4.5%**  
Growth rate in service sector

## Human and Social Development

Over the past two decades, Cambodia has experienced remarkable growth, lifting millions out of poverty, improving life expectancy, and enhancing access to education. **The country's Human Development Index (HDI) has risen by 56.9 per cent since 1990**, placing Cambodia in the medium human development category. Between 2014 and 2022, the incidence of **multidimensional poverty was halved**, dropping from 37 per cent to 17 per cent, with more people gaining access to better living conditions, healthcare, and education. However, challenges remain, including high workforce informality, gender disparities, and vulnerabilities in the economy. With approximately **88 per cent of the workforce in the informal sector**, economic insecurity persists, while women, on average, receive 1.5 fewer years of schooling and earn 35.8 per cent less than men. A 'future-fit' governance model that supports human development, economic diversification, and environmental sustainability will be crucial for Cambodia's transition out of LDC status and achieving balanced, sustainable progress for all citizens.

 **88%**  
of workforce is in the informal sector.

 **35.8%**  
Women on average receives 1.5 fewer years of schooling and earns 35.8 per cent less than men.

## Progress on Sustainable Development Goals

Preliminary findings from ESCAP's SDG Tracker show that, out of 18 SDGs for Cambodia, 3 are on track (6, 14, and 18), while 12 have made progress but remain off track, requiring rapid acceleration (1–5, 7, 9–11, 13, 15, and 17). Of the remaining SDGs, 2 are showing regression (8 and 12), while SDG 16 does not have sufficient data for measurement<sup>1</sup>.

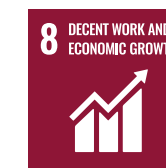
**SDG 6, SDG 14, and SDG 18 are on track.**



**SDG 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 11, 13, 15, 17 have made progress but remain off track** which require rapid acceleration.



**SDG 8 and SDG 12 are regression.**

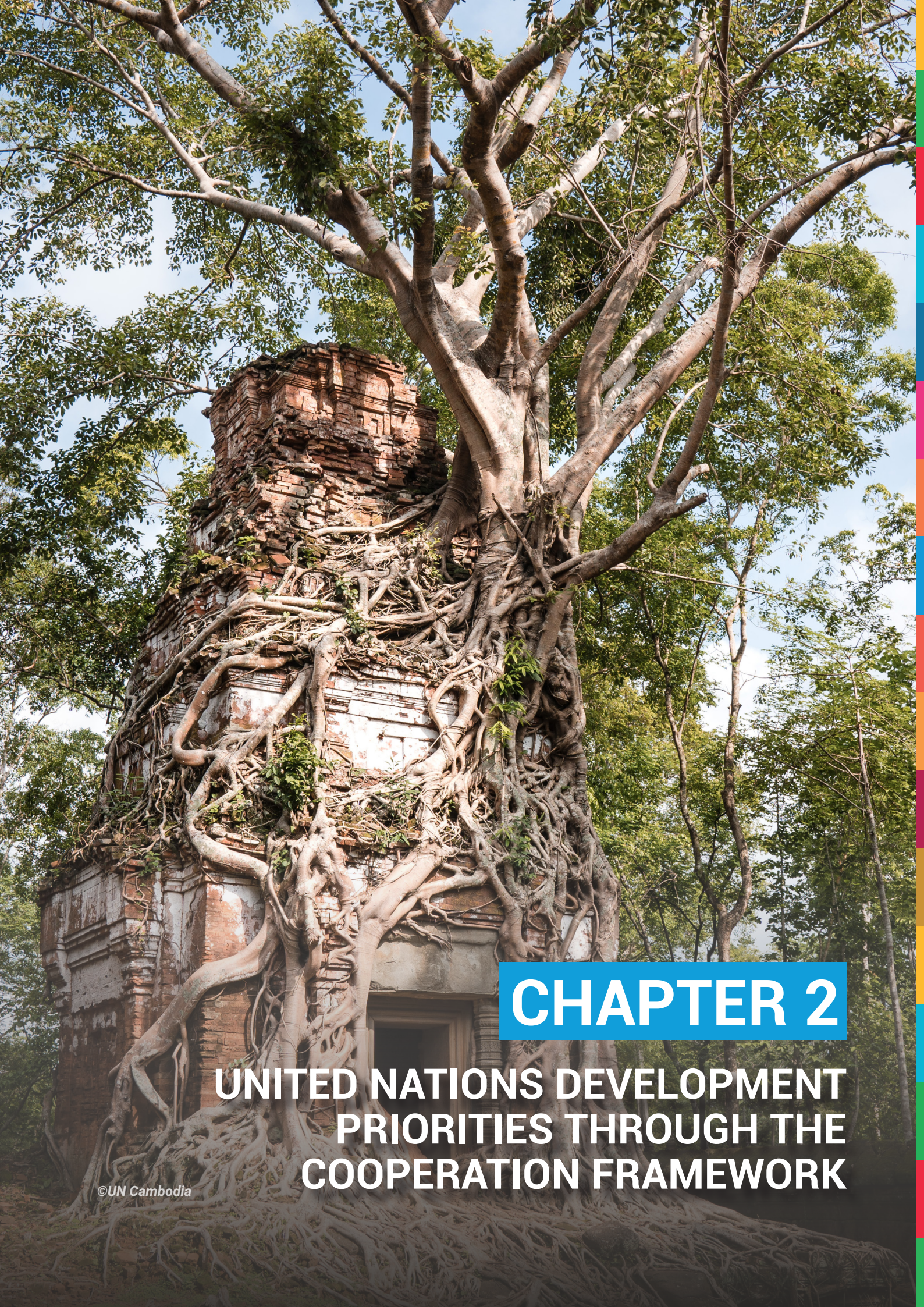


**SDG 16 does not have sufficient data for measurement.**



<sup>1</sup> The United Nations in Cambodia and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, in close consultation with the National Institute of Statistics, the Ministry of Planning, conducted a comprehensive assessment of Cambodia's progress toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The findings presented here reflect the preliminary results of that assessment.





## CHAPTER 2

# UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES THROUGH THE COOPERATION FRAMEWORK

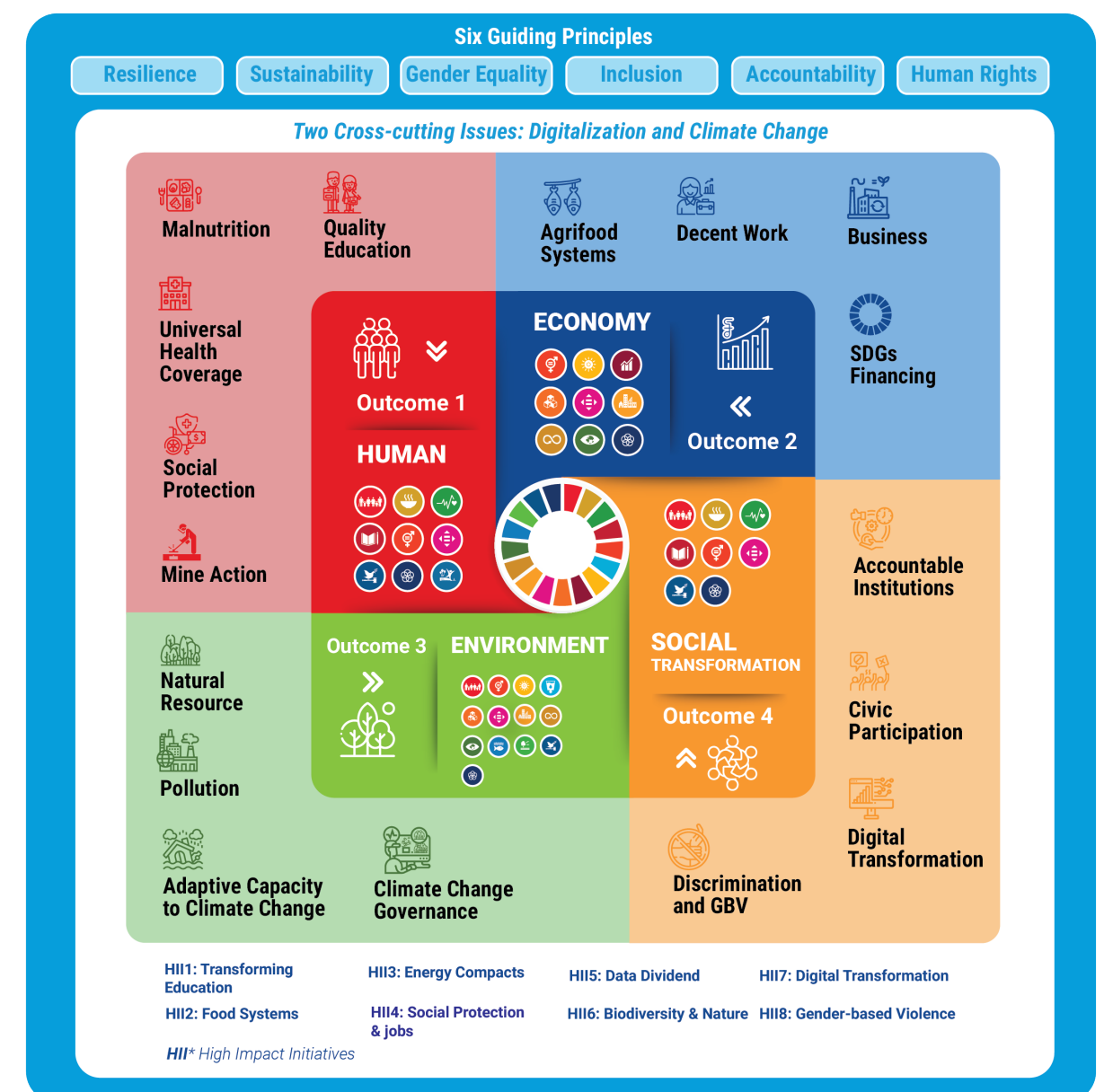
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## Overview of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework

The United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for Cambodia 2024–2028 serves as the strategic document that provides guidance to the United Nations system at the country level to effectively support the Royal Government of Cambodia in contributing to national development priorities as articulated in the Pentagonal Strategy – Phase 1, and making significant progress towards the Cambodian Sustainable Development Goals, LDC graduation and Cambodia's Vision 2050.

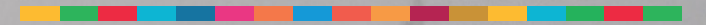
The priority areas, outcomes and outputs of the Cooperation Framework align closely with the priorities and objectives of the Royal Government of Cambodia's Pentagonal Strategy – Phase 1. The Cooperation Framework outlines key focus areas and interventions jointly identified by the United Nations Country Team, government counterparts and other stakeholders, working in concert with a wide range of development actors to support Cambodia's national development priorities.

### United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2024-2028





# Key Results of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework







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## Outcome 1 HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

By 2028, people in Cambodia, especially those at risk of being left behind, are healthier and benefit from improved gender-responsive education and social protection.

### Contributing Agencies:

FAO, IAEA, ILO, IOM, OHCHR, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNODC, UNOPS, WFP, WHO

### 2024 Expenditure (US\$ Million)

**\$ 60.94**



**0.60**  
Human Development Index, 147 out of 193 countries in 2023



**327,000**

people benefited from the supported health services on communicable diseases



**18.27%**  
of elderly persons covered by social protection (family package)



**86.80%**  **89.20%**  
2023 2024

Completion rate in primary education has increased from 86.8% in 2023 to 89.2% in 2024.



**10.11%**  
persons with disabilities covered by social protection



**59%**  
of persons living with HIV covered by social protection systems

In 2024, the United Nations focused on collectively strengthening institutional capacities which support human capital development and social protection, with specific attention to gender equality and ensuring that no one is left behind. The Human Development Index had increased slightly between 2020 and 2023, bringing Cambodia to a ranking of 147 (0.60) among 193 countries.

Cambodia made significant strides towards universal health coverage (UHC) through a primary health care (PHC)-centred approach. Over **327,000 people** benefited from the supported health services for communicable diseases. **Immunization coverage remained high**, with key antigens above 95 per cent. United Nations support in tuberculosis (TB) and malaria control led to an increase in notification for TB cases and a 74 per cent decrease in malaria cases, with no deaths since 2017.

Efforts to combat malnutrition saw the finalization of the third National Strategy for Food Security and Nutrition. Severe acute malnutrition treatment expanded to 15 provinces, reaching **6,100 children**. In education, completion rate in primary education has increased from 86.8 per cent (Male: 85.3 per cent, Female: 89.4 per cent) in 2023 to 89.2 per cent (Male: 86.3 per cent, Female: 92.3 per cent) in 2024.

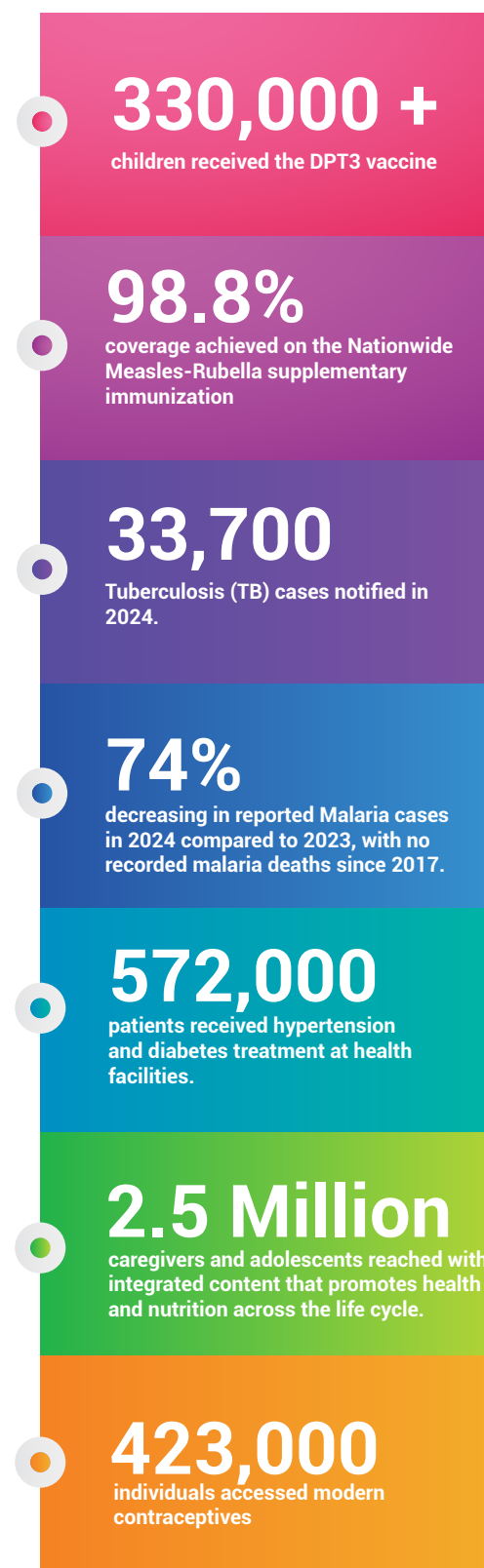
Social protection systems were strengthened, with the National Social Assistance Family Package benefiting over **2.9 million individuals**. The percentage of elderly persons; persons with disabilities; and person living with HIV covered by social protection has significantly increased to 18.27 per cent, 10.11 per cent and 59 per cent respectively in 2024.

Mine action efforts continued the clearance of mine-contaminated areas, clearing and releasing **3,209 hectares** of mine-contaminated areas and providing safe land for development. This effort has benefited more than **77,500 people**, 47 per cent of whom are women and girls, and 407 persons with disabilities.





## 1.1. Universal Health Coverage



In 2024, the United Nations advanced Cambodia's UHC goals through a PHC-centred approach, with all provinces developing PHC plans for 2025.

The United Nations system collaborated to enhance Cambodia's health services capacity through crucial technical support to develop, amend, implement and monitor law, strategic plans, policy, and action plans such as the **National Strategic Plan for Schistosomiasis Elimination 2025–2035**, **National Strategic Plan for Neglected Tropical Diseases 2026–2035**, **National Strategic Plan for Malaria 2026–2035**, **third National Strategy on Food Security and Nutrition**, **Patient Safety Policy**, **National Immunization Policy**, and **Health Workforce Development Plan 2024–2035**.

Routine immunization remained high, with over **330,000 children** receiving DPT3 and measles-rubella coverage reaching 98.8 per cent. TB cases rose to 33,700, while **malaria cases dropped 74 per cent** from 2023, with **no deaths** since 2017. Nearly **1 million malaria tests** were conducted, and schistosomiasis treatment was provided to **80,000 high-risk individuals**. Viral hepatitis services expanded in 15 districts and one Phnom Penh hospital.

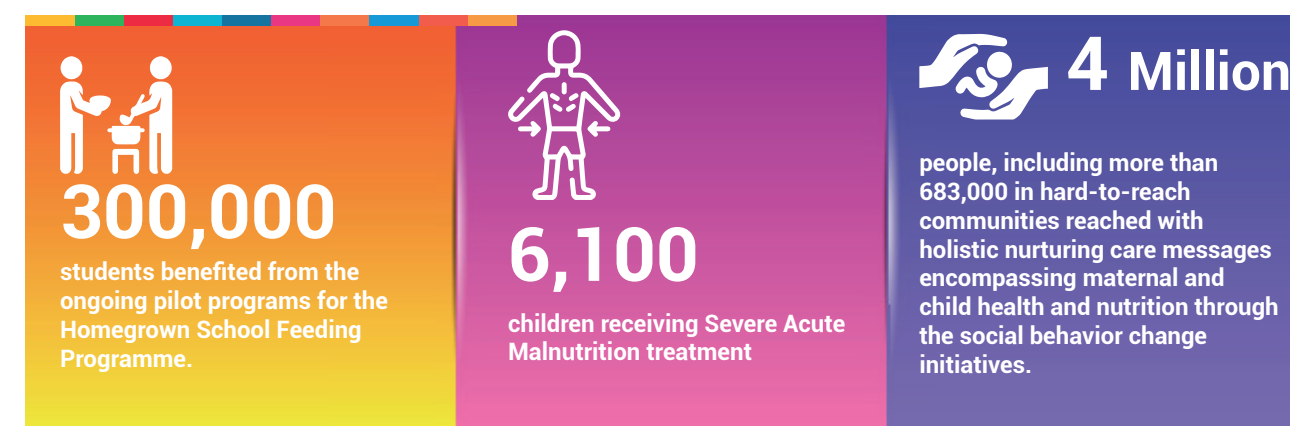
The United Nations also contributed to addressing the growing burden of non-communicable diseases. Over **572,000 patients** received hypertension and diabetes treatment at health facilities. Roughly **2.5 million caregivers and adolescents** were reached with integrated content that promotes health and nutrition across the life cycle. A new cancer centre was established at Luang Me Hospital, and the construction of the first cyclotron was initiated at Calmette Hospital in Phnom Penh.

As for maternal and child health, decentralized care supported 8,000 sick newborns, while **8,000 near-miss obstetric cases** received emergency care. More than **423,000 individuals** accessed modern contraceptives, **115,000 youth** (including over 43,000 women) used adolescent-friendly health services, and nearly **30,000 female entertainment workers** received sexual and reproductive health and rights information.

With regards to HIV/AIDS, Cambodia ranks among the region's top-performing countries, having **achieved 89-98-98 against the 95-95-95 HIV treatment** targets in 2023. In 2024, nearly **140,000 individuals** in Key Populations were reached through HIV prevention outreach, with 118,000 tested and around 2,200 were confirmed HIV positive, almost 100 per cent of them were referred to care. Additionally, nearly **13,000 individuals** in Key Populations were enrolled in pre-exposure prophylaxis, bringing the total to over **30,000 people**.



## 1.2. Malnutrition



With the start of this new cycle, the third **National Strategy for Food Security and Nutrition** was finalized and set to launch in early 2025. The strategy aims to address the double burden of malnutrition, including overweight, obesity and diet-related non-communicable diseases. Additionally, the United Nations also secured joint SDG funding for 2024–2025 to revise Cambodia's Roadmap for Food Systems for Sustainable Development 2030. As part of continued efforts to enhance nutrition, a review and update of Nutrition for Growth commitments is underway, led by the Council for Agricultural and Rural Development with support from the Ministry of Health.

In parallel, the Ministry of Planning has initiated the development of the **National Strategy for Food Fortification**, covering rice, salt, oil, fish and soy sauce. The United Nations is supporting the development of standards for fortified rice, which features prominently in ongoing pilot programmes for the **Homegrown School Feeding Programme**, currently benefiting over **300,000 students** in Cambodia. **The integration of the Cash Transfer for Pregnant Women scheme into the Family Package has strengthened and increased access to nutrition promotion and services.**

As of 2024, **15 out of 25 provinces** are now providing severe acute malnutrition treatment, reaching **6,100 children**. The United Nations also supported the Ministry of Health in developing contextualized wasting guidelines and standards, together with Helen Keller International.

Over **4 million people**, including **more than 683,000 in hard-to-reach communities**, were reached with holistic nurturing care messages encompassing maternal and child health and nutrition in 2024 through the social behaviour change initiatives.

Finally, the United Nations supported a multisectoral technical working group led by the Ministry of Economy and Finance in developing tax modelling for products associated with non-communicable disease behavioural risk factors (such as tobacco, alcohol and sugar-sweetened beverages) based on the Ministry of Economy and Finance Excise Tax Policy Framework 2024–2028.





## 1.3. Quality Education

In 2024, Cambodia achieved remarkable progress in education, skills development and youth empowerment. Around **1.1 million people** benefited from improved access to skills and lifelong learning programmes, including comprehensive sexuality education.

The Early-Grade Learning programme was expanded to new provinces, strengthening the capacity of over **4,200 teachers**, and benefiting more than **149,800 learners**. Vocational training and inclusive employment services supported almost 33,000 individuals in gaining skills and nearly 50,000 in accessing career guidance.

The United Nations supported non-formal education and skills development, benefiting 1,000 learners. United Nations support to the teacher education reform includes the development of the Strategic Plan for Teacher Education Reform, qualification upgrades like the 12+4, BA+1 and MEd programmes, and expansion of continuous professional development opportunities, benefiting more than **8,500 teachers and education officials** (including 5,266 women).

Over **545,000 adolescents and youth**, including **276,000 girls and young women**, gained access to sexual and reproductive health information and comprehensive sexuality education.

The United Nations co-hosted the Southeast Asia School Meals Coalition Summit and supported the School Feeding Policy 2024–2035, expanding the National Home-Grown School Feeding Programme to 126 additional schools and providing meals to **170,000 children**. These collaborative efforts highlight the commitment of the United Nations to advancing quality education, vocational training and youth development in Cambodia, fostering a more inclusive and sustainable future.



### 1.1 Million

people benefited from improved access to skills and lifelong learning programmes, including comprehensive sexuality education.

### 149,800+

learners benefited from the expansion of Early-Grade Learning programmes.

### 8,500

teachers and education officials benefited from Continuous Professional Development opportunities.

### 545,000

adolescents and youth benefited from sexual and reproductive health



## 1.4. Social Protection

### 286,000



households (49% headed by women) registered in the ID poor mechanism.

### 300,000



people (60% women) have enrolled in the NSSF for self-employed individuals

### 30,000



persons with disabilities and more than 1,000 people living with HIV were registered in the ID poor

### 2.9 million



individuals benefited from the roll out of the National Social Assistance Family Package

The United Nations in Cambodia continued supporting the RGC in enhancing and expanding social protection systems, including continued support for the IDPoor mechanism. In 2024, more than **286,000 households** (49 per cent of which are headed by women) registered via the IDPoor mechanism. Ensuring that no one is left behind, over 30,000 persons with disabilities and more than 1,000 people living with HIV were registered via IDPoor. In addition to those registered via IDPoor at the commune/sangkat level, **23,000 people living with HIV** are enrolled at antiretroviral treatment sites, enabling free health care.

Under the framework of social assistance, the RGC has supported vulnerable people through different schemes. For example, in 2024, around **2.9 million individuals** (nearly 1.6 million female) from more than 671,000 IDPoor households benefited from the roll-out of the National Social Assistance Family Package. The Family Package will be expanded to include school children (grades 1 through 12) from IDPoor households, covering over **500,000 additional students** in 2025.

In addition to the Family Package, the Graduation-Based Social Protection Programme, combining

cash transfers, productive assets and skills training, was set for national roll-out, targeting 5,000 households in 2025 and **200,000 households** over the next decade. To support the aging population, the Intergenerational Older People Association model was piloted, benefiting over **1,400 elderly individuals**.

In response to El Niño, over **3,450 vulnerable households** in Cambodia were protected through drought-anticipatory action, significantly improving food security. The cash transfer intervention increased households with acceptable food consumption scores from 77 per cent to 89 per cent and reduced poor dietary diversity scores from 38 per cent to 27 per cent.

Additionally, the **Cambodia Poverty and Vulnerability Mapping Tool** was transferred to the Ministry of Planning to enhance data-driven policymaking. The **Shock-Responsive Social Protection Framework** and the national disaster risk financing strategy (2023–2028) were launched.

On national social security, over **300,000 people** (60 per cent women) have enrolled in the National Social Security Fund for self-employed individuals.



## FAMILY PACKAGE: Aid for children with disabilities like Piseth

Piseth, a 16-year-old born with a physical impairment, has been raised by his grandmother after his parents could no longer care for him. Life in rural Cambodia has been hard for Piseth. Caring for two teenagers on a small income is tough for Grandma Yan. ***"It's hard, every day we worry about how to pay for medical bills, school supplies and food."*** she says. Yet every morning, Piseth balances on his crutches, climbs onto his aunt's motorbike, and heads to school, eager to learn. Despite being 16, Piseth is still in grade 3 because he missed many years of school due to his disability and financial struggles. His teacher, Ra Lida, admires his dedication. ***"He never gives up,"*** she says. ***"Even when the roads are muddy and he can't make it to school, he studies at home."*** School ended several weeks ago and Piseth is now moving up to the fourth grade – a milestone that fills him with pride.

In April 2024, there was a sign of relief when Cambodia launched the Family Package, a national programme supported by the United Nations. The Family Package provides financial assistance to low-income families, especially those with children, older adults and people with disabilities like Piseth. With the support from the United Nations, Piseth now holds a disability card that provides him with US\$ 7 a month to help cover school supplies and medical care. Starting in January 2025, if he attends school regularly, he will receive an additional US\$ 5 a month. Altogether, his annual support will amount to US\$ 246 – a small but crucial sum that will go towards school fees, a new backpack and sturdier crutches. Piseth qualifies for this assistance due to his physical disability and the financial hardships his family faces, making him eligible through Cambodia's IDPoor system.

***"We used to have nothing,"*** Grandma Yan says, her voice breaking. ***"Now, I can afford to send him to school and buy him food."***

But it isn't just the Family Package that has transformed Piseth's life. In June 2024, with support from the United Nations and funded by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, schools, hospitals and social services became more accessible for children with disabilities via a programme that focuses on early identification of disabilities and improving referral systems so children get the support they need.

## STORY



**“**  
***The teachers are more patient with me now; there's a girl with autism in another class, and she's getting help too.***  
**”**

**Piseth, a 16-year-old born with a physical impairment.**



## 1.5. Mine Action

The United Nations has made significant strides in Cambodia through its mine action interventions, clearing and releasing **3,209 hectares** of mine-contaminated areas and providing safe land for development. This effort has benefited more than **77,500 people**, including 47 per cent women and girls, and 407 persons with disabilities. In addition, the United Nations has supported the Battambang Physical Rehabilitation Center by providing equipment to enhance its rehabilitation services. In 2024, more than **13,000 individuals**, including more than 5,000 mine/ERW survivors, received rehabilitation support, improving their health. Women accounted for 23 per cent of the total beneficiaries, with 505 amputees (including 22 women) benefiting from mirror therapy training to reduce phantom limb pain.



**3,209 hectares**

**of mine-contaminated areas were cleared and released, providing safe land for development.**

**77,500+ people**

**including 47% women and girls, and 407 persons with disabilities benefited from mine clearance.**

**13,000+ individuals**

**including more than 5,000 mine/ERW survivors, received rehabilitation support, improving their health.**



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**“**  
***With prosthetic leg, I can ride a motorbike, so I go to buy fish, crabs, and snails to sell. I can go to pick up morning glory and harvest water lilies. Basically, I find ways to do whatever it takes to feed my children***  
**”**

**- Ms Chhuon Heng, a 57-year-old mine survivor living in Battambang province. Ms. Heng received free prosthetic services, leg replacements, livelihood training, and financial support from the United Nations and partners Australia, New Zealand, and the Republic of Korea through the Clearing for Results program.**





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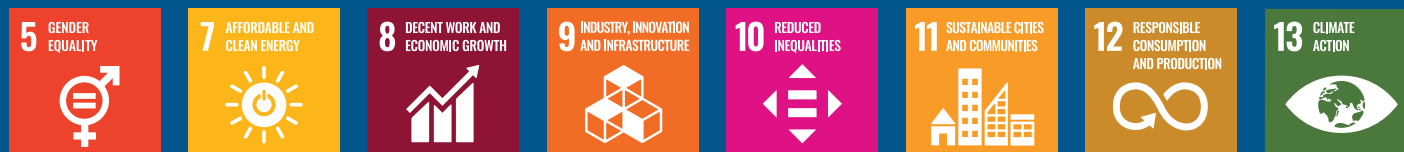
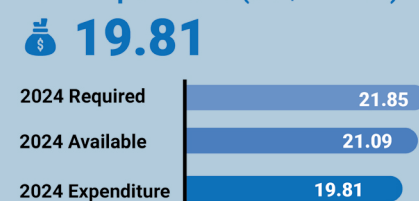
## Outcome 2: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION

By 2028, people in Cambodia, especially those at risk of being left behind, benefit from and contribute to a productive, diversified, gender-equal, formalised and low-carbon and climate-adapted economy.

### Contributing Agencies:

FAO, IAEA, ILO, IOM, ITC, OHCHR,  
UN WOMEN, UNCDF, UNCTAD, UNDP,  
UNESCAP, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFPA,  
UNICEF, UNIDO, UNITAR, WFP, WHO

### 2024 Expenditure (US\$ Million)



**6.0%**

Estimated GDP growth  
rate in 2024



**9.2%**

Growth rate in Industry  
sector



**0.9%**

Growth rate in  
Agriculture sector



**4.5%**

Growth rate in service  
sector



**US\$70.25 Million**

were mobilized through  
bond issuances in the first  
9 months of 2024



**700,000**

workers of 709 active factories  
benefited from improving working  
conditions.

Cambodia's economy is projected to grow by 6.0 per cent in 2024, with strong expansion in garment and textiles manufacturing (16.9 per cent), while non-garment manufacturing (7.1 per cent) and services show signs of slowing, particularly in accommodation and food services (12.9 per cent) and trade (3.9 per cent). Agriculture continues to improve, led by crop production (1.6 per cent) and fisheries (0.9 per cent), despite declines in livestock and poultry (-1.9 per cent).

The United Nations supported Cambodia's transition to a more inclusive, efficient, and climate-adapted economy by enhancing business resilience, safer work conditions, and agricultural value chains, while promoting innovation, pollution reduction, and cleaner energy. In collaboration with the Government, private sector, and industry associations, the United Nations

advanced the decent work agenda, formalizing jobs and improving working conditions for nearly **700,000 workers**, 73 per cent of whom are women, in 709 active garment, footwear, and travel goods factories.

To advance sustainable financing and green investments, the United Nations partnered with the Credit Guarantee Corporation of Cambodia to launch the **Sustainable Green Financing Facility and the Post-Harvest Fisheries Guarantee Scheme**, aligning with Cambodia's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement. United Nations technical support also helped mobilize **US\$ 70.25 million** through bond issuances in the first nine months of 2024, expanding fiscal space for development priorities.





## 2.1. Agrifood Systems



The United Nations continued supporting Cambodia's agrifood system transformation by developing strategic frameworks that enhance climate resilience, efficiency, and inclusivity. This support addressed key bottlenecks in the agricultural value chain, improving productivity, quality, safety, and trade.

Key strategic and regulatory frameworks were developed, including the **Rice Market Expansion and Export Diversification Strategy 2025–2030**, the draft **Geographical Indication Roadmap**, the draft **Fisheries Law**, and the **Cambodia Quality Seal (CQS)** certification scheme. Data-driven decision-making was strengthened through the Cambodia Agriculture Survey, AI and satellite-based land mapping for Cashew Map 2024, and investment studies on agricultural residuals.

A total of **480 organizations**, including 48 agricultural cooperatives, three geographical indication associations, 14 community protected areas and

community forestry groups, and 416 community fisheries, received technical and financial support for capacity building, business planning, and small grants to strengthen operations. Additionally, **five national universities** have strengthened their research capacity in fisheries and food safety. The United Nations supported the strengthening of Cambodia's rice seed system, distributing 18,700 kg of registered rice seeds to 184 producers (including 78 women), leading to the production of 463 tons of certified rice seed, and generating **US\$ 125,000 in net revenue** for seed producers. These certified seeds are expected to support 3,000 hectares of rice cultivation in the next planting season, potentially yielding **10,000 tons of paddy rice**.

Food safety systems were enhanced through lab upgrades, certification schemes, and surveillance of antimicrobial resistance (AMR), zoonotic diseases and agricultural pests. **Forty post-harvest fishery enterprises** received support, with

17 achieving CQS certification, generating **US\$ 2 million** and creating **11,000 jobs**. Ten national laboratories upgraded to meet international standards, with one expanding accreditation to nine new parameters in water and food microbiology, which will further boost Cambodia's food and agricultural trade potential.

To increase public awareness on zoonotic diseases, AMR, food safety and nutrition while promoting locally produced products, the United Nations supported multiple public engagement initiatives, including World Food Safety Day, National Nutrition Day, AMR Awareness Week, food safety forums, school and farmer forums, and agricultural fairs. These events collectively reached over **30,000 school-aged children, students, farmers and consumers**.

**“ I used to have limited knowledge of certified rice seed production until the United Nations provided support, which has completely transformed our farming practices. I have learned to use pesticides and fertilizers more efficiently, reducing costs and increasing income. I am now considering investing in a tractor and expanding my business by selling agricultural inputs to other farmers. ”**

said Chhoeun Chhuy, a 45-year-old farmer with a determined smile of Tean Kam Thbong commune, Banteay Meanchey province.



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## 2.2. Business



**23 enterprises  
& 10 women**

green businesses were supported to integrate green practices into their business models and innovate solutions to combat climate change and marine plastic pollution.



**1,100+ people**

(including 632 females) from 268 rural households gained access to solar energy.



**Universal Trusted  
Credential**

platform developed, using innovation and blockchain technology to improve access to affordable finance, business development, and market opportunities for Cambodia's MSMEs.



**4 key strategic  
documents**

including National Strategic Development Plan 2024-2028; National Roadmap for the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions; Roadmap for compliance with the EU green trade standards; and a five-year strategic foresight roadmap.

The United Nations supported the RGC in the development of key national gender-responsive strategies, policies and road maps for a just transition to an environmentally sustainable economy, including the development of the **National Strategic Development Plan 2024-2028** and the **National Roadmap for the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions**. The United Nations provided technical support to the Ministry of Commerce on a **road map for compliance with the European Union** green trade standards and rules of origin to enhance trade competitiveness and environmental sustainability.

Through partnership with the Ministry of Economy and Finance, new sources of economic growth were identified through a **five-year strategic foresight road map**. In addition, the **Universal Trusted Credentials**, a platform enhancing access to affordable finance and market opportunities for Cambodia's micro, small and medium-sized enterprises was developed in collaboration with the National Bank of Cambodia and relevant government ministries and private sector.

**23 enterprises and ten women-owned green businesses** were supported to foster green practices and pursue innovations to address climate change and marine plastic pollution through initiatives like the Adaptation Pipeline Accelerator and the Economic Empowerment of Women in Green Industry. Market linkages for **64 women-led businesses** in footwear, textiles, and handicrafts were strengthened. To promote green energy, the United Nations provided access to solar energy for more than **1,100 people** (632 females) from 268 rural households.

In support of the **preparations for LDC graduation**, the United Nations provided evidence-based analyses and advocacy tools including an assessment of the country's readiness for and socioeconomic impacts of the graduation, enabling the RGC to secure a **five-year transition period** extending to 2029.

## FROM LOCAL ROOTS TO MARKET SUCCESS

With a big smile under her traditional hijab, Ms. Mary Lep stands proudly with her CQS certificate. She represents hope in Cambodia's fisheries industry. In 2014, Ms. Mary started UNICA Enterprise to help women-led fish processing groups in Pursat and Siem Reap. Her goal was to connect their products to shoppers in Phnom Penh, boosting local fisheries and creating a profitable business.

UNICA quickly grew, but quality and hygiene issues held it back. Many of its local fish processors struggled to maintain proper hygiene and sanitation measures to meet food safety standards. To overcome these challenges, Ms. Mary sought external support.

In 2021, UNICA began receiving crucial support from the CAPFISH-Capture project, funded by the European Union and implemented by the United Nations and the Fisheries Administration. UNICA was one of 40 fishery enterprises that got assistance with food safety, business upgrading and new equipment such as solar dryer domes, water filtration systems and vacuum packaging machines.

The support from the CAPFISH-Capture project allowed UNICA to enhance its business operations, elevating the quality and safety of its fish products. Through the establishment of an internal control system and collaboration with researchers, UNICA developed innovative products like ready-to-eat fish jerky, leading to a significant expansion of its market presence and a 20 per cent increase in sales by 2024.

The positive effects of UNICA's growth went beyond the enterprise itself. It created jobs including for women from a minority community and supported around 300 families through 10 fish processor groups and 6 other fish processing businesses, including some led by persons with disabilities

As of late 2023, UNICA partnered with Makro Cambodia, one of the leading shopping mall businesses in the country, and other major supermarket chains to explore export opportunities to countries like Korea and New Zealand.

## STORY



“

*Success isn't just about making money; it's about helping our communities, empowering women, supporting people with disabilities and minority groups, and creating sustainable solutions that minimize negative impacts on the environment,*

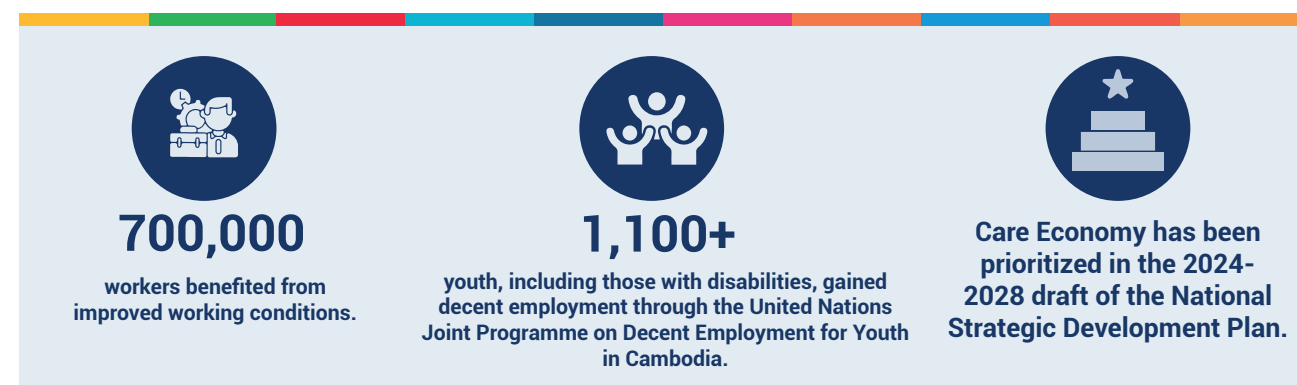
”

**Ms. Mary, highlighting the importance of inclusivity and support for all in Cambodia.**





## 2.3. Decent Work Conditions



The United Nations has been supporting a decent work agenda in Cambodia in close collaboration with the Government, private sector and industry associations. This support includes initiatives that formalize more jobs and value chains, ensuring better working conditions and the realization of workers' rights. As part of this effort, the United Nations has supported the development and implementation of several key strategies and plans, including:

- **National Strategy for Informal Economy Development 2023–2028;**
- **Cambodia Garment, Footwear, and Travell Goods Sector Development Strategy 2022–2027;**
- **Digital Skill Development Roadmap 2024–2035;**
- **National Disability Strategic Plan 2024–2028;** and
- **National Roadmap for the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions.**

Additionally, the inclusion of **care economy** as a priority in the final draft of the National Strategic Development Plan 2024–2028, has been successfully advocated.

The United Nations has significantly contributed to the improvement of working conditions of almost **700,000 workers** (73 per cent women) in Cambodia's garment, footwear and travel goods sector. Additionally, 719 representatives from key organizations benefited from capacity-building initiatives, enhancing compliance with labour standards and industry sustainability.

The United Nations Joint Programme on Decent Employment for Youth in Cambodia Phase 3 facilitated **decent employment for over 1,100 youth**, including persons with disabilities, through the promotion of activities and vocational training programmes.



## 2.4. SDGs Financing

The United Nations has contributed to strengthening the fiscal space and supported policy frameworks and mechanisms to catalyse and align public and private financing to achieve the country's development objectives in line with the SDGs.

The **National Financing Policy Framework**, which lays out strategies to mobilize and leverage public and private financing sources to support the national Pentagonal Strategy – Phase 1 objectives, was developed. In addition, capacity development and technical advisory support have been provided on debt management, thematic bonds, credit risk rating, and SDG-aligned financing. The support helped the RGC mobilize **US\$ 70.25 million** through bond issuances in the first nine months of 2024, expanding fiscal space for development priorities.

Beyond expanding fiscal space, the United Nations has been working with the RGC and partners to align public and private financing with the SDGs and carbon neutrality targets. Key achievements include the roll-out of the **Sustainable Green Financing Facility and Post-Harvest Fisheries Guarantee Scheme** by the Credit Guarantee Corporation of Cambodia to promote access to financing for green sectors.

On the public budget side, **gender-responsive budget guidelines** were developed and capacity development for senior government officials on green and inclusive public financial management was enhanced. When effectively implemented, these approaches will contribute to strengthening gender equality and green economy priorities in the public budgeting process.

At the subnational level, the United Nations supported the development of **inter-ministerial guidelines for the implementation of the social service budget envelope**, a commune/sangkat budget monitoring app and capacity development of central ministries and selected provincial/capital administrations on result-based management and five-year plan development.

To close financing gaps, the **Cambodia Inter-censal Population Survey 2024** and coordination between the Government, development partners, and CSOs to better align data initiatives and funding, were strengthened.



**US\$ 70.25M**  
mobilized through bond  
issuances in the first 9  
months of 2024.



**Sustainable Green Financing Facility and Post-Harvest Fisheries Guarantee Scheme** launched by the Credit Guarantee Corporation of Cambodia to enhance access to financing in green sectors.



**Gender Responsive Budget guidelines** were developed to promote gender equality in financial planning.



**National Financing Policy Framework** is developed





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## Outcome 3 ENVIRONMENT

By 2028, people in Cambodia, especially those at risk of being left behind, benefit from a healthier, gender-inclusive natural environment.

**Contributing Agencies:**  
FAO, IFAD, IOM, OHCHR, UNCDF, UNDP, UNDRR, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN-HABITAT, UNIDO, UNICEF, UNOPS, UN WOMEN, WFP, WHO

2024 Expenditure (US\$ Million)

 **14.60**



**170th**

Cambodia's rank out of 180 countries in the Environmental Performance Index.



**2.3% ↗ 2.1%**

Public expenditure on climate action as percentage of GDP decreased



**16.6% ↗ 17.3%**

communes "highly vulnerable" increased



**18.2% ↗ 18.8%**

communes "quite vulnerable" increased

Cambodia made modest progress in environmental sustainability, as reflected in an improvement in the Environmental Performance Index (EPI) score from 30.10 in 2022 to 31.2 in 2024, ranking the country 170th out of 180 globally. Despite this slight increase, the ranking underscores the need for strengthened environmental governance, enhanced policy implementation, and increased investment in sustainable resource management. Persistent challenges in air and water quality, biodiversity conservation, and climate resilience require urgent and coordinated action to align national efforts with global environmental commitments.

At the same time, climate vulnerability remains a critical concern. The percentage of communes classified as "**highly vulnerable**" increased from 16.6 per cent in 2021 to 17.3 per cent in 2022, while those categorized as "**quite vulnerable**" rose from 18.2 per cent to 18.8 per cent over the same period. These trends indicate that climate-related risks are intensifying, exacerbating socio-economic disparities and disproportionately affecting rural communities. Strengthening resilience through integrated adaptation strategies and community-based disaster risk reduction will be essential to mitigating these risks.

Despite these growing challenges, public **expenditure on climate action** as a percentage of GDP declined from 2.3 per cent in 2021 to 2.1 per cent in 2023. This reduction may constrain Cambodia's ability to scale up critical interventions in climate mitigation and adaptation. Mobilizing additional resources through innovative financing mechanisms and enhanced private sector engagement will be essential to sustaining progress and addressing the structural vulnerabilities that heighten climate risks.



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### 3.1. Natural Resource Management

In partnership with the RGC to enhance natural resource management, conservation, preservation and restoration, the United Nations provided support to develop and implement regulatory frameworks for the sustainable management of natural resources through enhancing biodiversity conservation and sustainable development of World Heritage Sites, geoparks and biosphere reserves. Subsequently, the **Tonlé Sap Biosphere Reserve (TSBR) Strategic Plan** has been drafted and the management plan for TSBR Stung Sen Core Area was integrated into the management plan for Ramsar site. More than **292,000 hectares** of community forests and community protected areas and over **53,000 hectares** of natural and cultural heritage were brought under improved management by addressing forest and land degradation, protection, conservation, preservation and restoration.

The United Nations also worked to support local communities, particularly those most vulnerable, in managing and benefiting from natural resources while enhancing their resilience against climate change and natural disasters. More than **124,000 people** (49 per cent women) benefited from the supported initiatives to protect nature and promote sustainable use of resources.

As part of an effort to support the RGC in addressing illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, nearly 3,800 fishing vessels were registered, and a monitoring system was established to oversee 925 vessels. This initiative was a significant step forward in supporting government efforts to regulate and protect marine resources. Technical assistance was provided to the Fisheries Administration in the preparation of **inland fisheries management plans**, specific operational management plans for fisheries (e.g., bagnet fisheries), species and habitats (e.g., flooded forest, deep pools), and strengthening the role of fisheries co-management.



**292,000**  
hectares of community forests and community protected areas were under improved management through addressing forest and land degradation, protection, conservation, preservation, and restoration.



**53,000+**  
hectares of natural and cultural heritage were under improved management through addressing forest and land degradation, protection, conservation, preservation, and restoration.



**124,000**  
people (49% women) benefit from the United Nations support initiatives to protect nature and promote sustainable use of resources.



**3,800**  
fishing vessels were registered, and a monitoring system was established to oversee 925 vessels.

### STORY



“  
*I used to go to the forests with my parents. They were so beautiful with a lot of trees. But now, it is different. Some people came here and cut the trees*  
”

Bun Sophai, a woman from the Por Indigenous community in Phnom Rei village, Battambang province, sharing her childhood memory

### Indigenous Community Leading the Fight Against Climate Change

*“I used to go to the forests with my parents. They were so beautiful with a lot of trees. But now, it is different. Some people came here and cut the trees,”* Bun Sophai, a woman from the Por Indigenous community in Phnom Rei village, Battambang province, sharing her childhood memory.

The Indigenous communities in Cambodia face significant challenges in protecting their forests due to illegal logging, deforestation for agriculture, and land concessions. For these communities, forests are their source of life and livelihoods.

*“Before, we could go to pick vegetables and mushrooms everywhere. But now there are not so many,”* lamented Ms. Sophai.

A leader of the community, Mr. Niev Naek, explained that the land title will protect the forests because the community members can then stop outsiders from illegally exploiting the forests. It will also create local livelihoods, reduce migration, and contribute to climate change adaptation. He stated, *“If we don’t register the land title, our community will fall apart.”*

Mr. Naek has been tirelessly working with his community to register their land title since 2008, but it is still pending. Since 2023, through the support from the United Nations, in collaboration with, the North-Eastern Cottage Organization, helped the community resume their land registration process. The community successfully submitted a request in late 2024 for 900 hectares of land to be titled as a communal property. The request has been approved, and the community is awaiting the official land title by mid-2025.





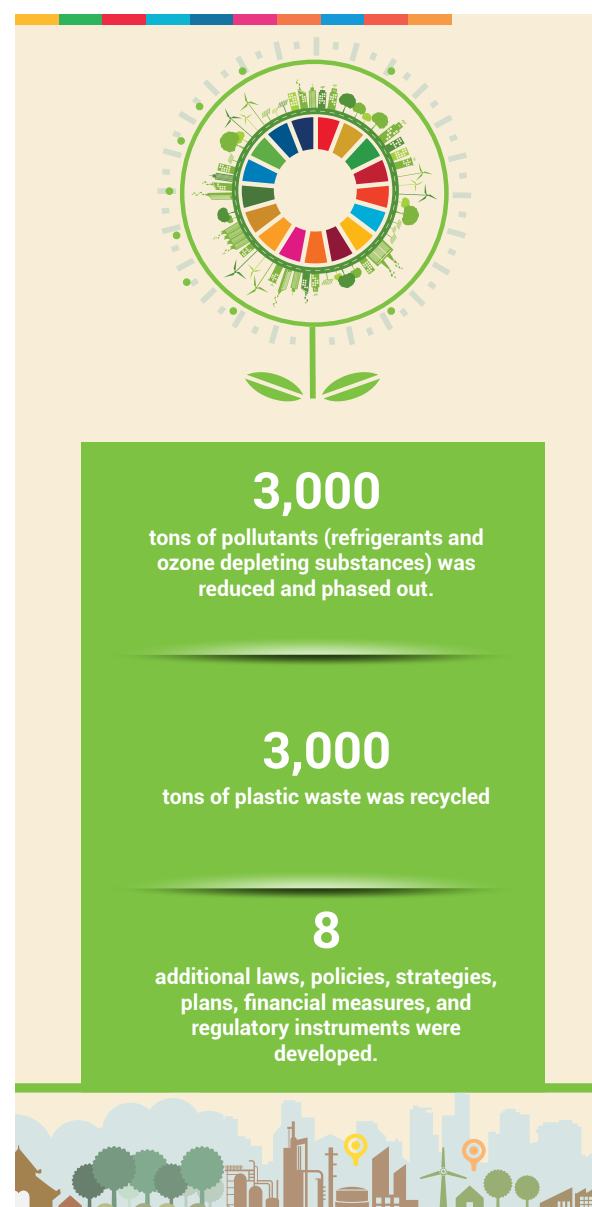


## 3.2. Pollution

The United Nations has contributed to a reduction of air, water and land pollution and further control of hazardous substances and materials through a range of actions. **Eight additional gender-responsive and inclusive laws, policies, strategies, plans, financial measures and regulatory instruments** were developed to reduce pollution in air, water, soil and the ocean and diminish related environmental health risks, in line with multilateral environmental agreement obligations. The United Nations also supported the development of implementation guidelines for monitoring vehicle emissions and fuel quality in line with Euro 4 standards, as well as the development of a road map to reach Euro 6 vehicle emissions standards. Similarly, the United Nations worked with the Energy Authority to synergize the phase-out/phase-down of refrigerants and ozone-depleting substances, enabling the reduction and **phasing out of over 3,000 tons of pollutants**.

The United Nations also supported Cambodia in adopting measures to reduce hazardous substances, including establishing national lead limits in paint through a Prakas to be signed by the Minister of Environment for dissemination and implementation starting 2025, as well as a baseline inventory report for the **National Action Plan to control mercury pollution** and leakage into the environment from the artisanal and small-scale gold mining sector.

The United Nations has also supported action to combat plastic pollution and waste, including efforts like the Ending Plastic Pollution Innovation Challenge that led to the **recycling of 3,000 tons of plastic waste**, the Feasibility Study on Plastic Recycling towards a Circular Future in Cambodia, and the development of the national plastic source inventory and national strategy to address plastic pollution.



## 3.3. Climate Change Governance

The United Nations, through strategic cooperation, has made a significant contribution to enhancing the RGC's capacities in governance, policies and strategies for climate change and disaster reduction. In terms of policies and high-level stakeholder engagement, the United Nations has supported the development of **Cambodia's Climate Change Strategy Plan for 2024–2033**. Moreover, the United Nations continues to co-lead with the Ministry of Environment in coordinating system-wide support for **Cambodia's NDC 3.0**, conducting a mapping exercise and developing a comprehensive concept note outlining methodologies and technical assistance requirements. The United Nations has also contributed by reviewing the status of **Cambodia's forest monitoring systems**, enhancing understanding of these critical resources for future interventions.

The United Nations contributed to the development of the **Climate Change Priority Action Plan 2030** and supported the greenhouse gas inventory for **Cambodia's Biennial Transparency Report**, updating the country's progress on climate mitigation. Subsequently, Cambodia was able to prepare and submit its first report to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on 31 December 2024. Additionally, the United Nations also assisted the Ministry of Women's Affairs in creating the Beijing+30 national review report, focusing on gender mainstreaming in climate and disaster policies.

To facilitate **youth engagement in climate action**, over **320 participants** were supported in initiatives such as the Local Conference of Youth and the Cambodia Climate Change Summit 2024. A notable outcome was the creation of the Cambodia Youth Statement on Climate Change 2024 during the Local Conference of Youth, which amplified the voices of Cambodian youth leaders at COP29 in Azerbaijan.

Furthermore, **40 women entrepreneurs** have strengthened the capacity to promote the use of renewable energy and climate-smart technologies in their enterprises.





## STORY



### A Transformative Journey: Yer's Story of Resilience in Preah Vihear

Ros Yer, a 47-year-old farmer from a remote community in Preah Vihear, faced many challenges due to poverty. With only four years of schooling before marrying a fellow farmer and raising three children, her life revolved around subsistence farming.

*"We are farmers, there's nothing to do except grow rice,"* Yer shared. She cultivated rice once a year and worked as labor on cassava farms to make ends meet. Her traditional farming methods resulted in low market prices and high costs, as she often had to hire additional help.

In 2017, Yer joined the Samaki Phnom Pich Borey Agricultural Cooperative which was established with the support from the United Nations, which transformed her approach to farming. Members of the cooperative support each other both financially and with labor, significantly reducing costs. Yer and her fellow members now receive better market prices for their crops and no longer worry about finding buyers after harvest, as the cooperative secures contracts in advance.

*"This changed my traditional family farming practices. By working together with our community, we're improving our farming methods and benefiting from low-interest loans, which has been a great relief for us,"* Yer explained.



## 3.4. Adaptive Capacity to Climate Change

The United Nations supported several climate risk initiatives in Cambodia, including updating the flood and drought vulnerability map with the National Committee for Disaster Management, developing the **Children's Climate Risk Index** with the Ministry of Environment, and creating the **Climate Vulnerability Risk Assessment** with the National Council for Sustainable Development for climate-resilient land-use planning in the Tonlé Sap Plain. The **National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction 2024–2028** was revised to include gender analysis; and emergency preparedness plans, the anticipatory action plan for floods, and the Early Warnings for all road map were updated with a gender-responsive and inclusive approach. In partnership with General Secretariat of the National Social Protection Council and the Ministry of Health, the **Shock-Responsive Social Protection Plan** was developed, an all-hazards country risk profile, and a national emergency medical team for disaster preparedness, were established. Risk mapping and planning have boosted community resilience at Angkor and Koh Ker heritage sites. National capacity in agrometeorological advisory services was also enhanced.

Over **110,000 people** in Cambodia gained access to climate-resilient water supply services, while **47,000 individuals** benefited from climate-resilient sanitation services in the country's north-east provinces. Climate-resilient measures were introduced in 60 health facilities, benefiting **28,000 children** under 5, and 24 schools were equipped with WASH services, benefiting over **3,500 students and teachers**, including 1,761 girls. These initiatives reflect the continued commitment of the United Nations to strengthening environmental resilience, promoting sustainable development, and improving the well-being of Cambodian communities.

The United Nations, in collaboration with the National Council for Sustainable Development and the Ministry of Environment, implemented climate-resilient interventions in Kep and Preah Sihanouk. A water gate and a 370-metre embankment were strengthened, protecting rice fields and benefiting **3,500 people**. The United Nations also provided cash support to more than 3,400 households, improving food security for 89 per cent of them.

The United Nations supported women in addressing climate change through initiatives like participatory photography (20 women), awareness sessions (22 women), and workshops on renewable energy and climate-smart technologies (28 women). A total of 467 beneficiaries, including 426 women, were trained in climate-related livelihoods and business development.



**110,000**  
people gained access to  
climate-resilient water  
supply services



**47,000**  
individuals benefited from  
climate-resilient sanitation  
services in the country's  
North-East provinces.



**280,000**  
children under five benefited  
from Climate-resilient  
measures introduced in 60  
health facilities.



**3,500**  
students and teachers (1,761  
are women) benefited from  
WASH services equipped in  
24 schools.

**“**  
*By working together  
with our community,  
we're improving our  
farming methods  
and benefiting from  
low-interest loans,  
which has been a  
great relief for us,*  
**”**

Ros Yer, a 47-year-old  
farmer from a remote  
community in Preah  
Vihear.





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## Outcome 4 SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION

By 2028, people in Cambodia, especially those at risk of being left behind, live in an increasingly gender equal and inclusive society with active civic space and enjoy more effective and accountable institutions.

### Contributing Agencies:

ILO, IOM, ITU, OHCHR, UN-HABITAT,  
UN WOMEN, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCAP,  
UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNODC, UNV,  
WFP, UNHCR, WHO

### 2024 Expenditure (US\$ Million)

**10.57**

2024 Required	13.33
2024 Available	12.26
2024 Expenditure	10.57



### Proportions of women in national and sub-national administration

**13.6%**  
National  
Assembly

**17%**  
Capital and  
provincial  
civils

**14.9%**  
Secretary  
of state

**15.8%**  
Undersecretary  
of State

**19.22%**  
Municipalities,  
districts, and Khan  
councils

Cambodia demonstrated progress in strengthening institutional accountability and inclusive governance through transformative initiatives. However, continued investment in institutional reforms and inclusive decision-making remains crucial to further enhancing civic participation, ensuring media freedom, and expanding civic space.

Women's representation in governance and public administration remains a priority for fostering inclusive decision-making. Women currently **hold 13.6 per cent of seats** in the National Assembly, while representation at executive levels of government includes **14.9 per cent at the Secretary of State level** and **15.8 per cent at the Undersecretary of State level**. At the sub-national level, women's representation in capital and provincial councils stands at 17 per cent, marking incremental progress toward gender parity in leadership. Despite these advancements, challenges persist in achieving equal participation of women in decision-making processes. Addressing structural barriers, promoting gender-sensitive policies, and investing in leadership development for women remain critical to accelerating progress.



### 4.1. Accountable Institutions



**90,000**  
migrants and their  
families benefited  
from the support  
on counseling,  
legal aid and skills  
training.



**5,800**  
community  
members reached  
on safe migration  
awareness



**10**  
strategic laws,  
plans, policies, and  
action plans were  
supported.





In 2024, the United Nations provided technical expertise on the development or amendment of key legislation, including the development of the new **Disability Law**, the fourth **National Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against Women**, **Child Protection Law**, **National Disability Strategic Plan 2024–2028**, **National Action Plan on Violence Against Children**, **National Policy for Ending AIDS and the Sustainability of HIV Program 2023–2028**, and the **National Action Plan for Addressing HIV-Related Stigma and Discrimination**, as well as proposed amendments to the **LANGO**, the **Press Law** and the development of **Charter for Professional Journalism**.

The technical assistance of the United Nations sensitized media stakeholders on various modalities of media regulation and advanced their discussion on its potential structure in an effort to promote press freedom and ethical journalism. The Public Service Innovation Curriculum was adopted by the Royal School of Administration, strengthening the capacity of 60 public sector management staff (26 per cent women).

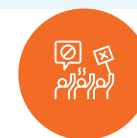
Cambodia has made significant progress toward achieving universal civil registration. The **Law on Civil Registration, Vital Statistics, and Identification**, which came into force on 1 July 2024, made registration of births, deaths, and other vital events compulsory. If implemented successfully, it will enable all individuals in Cambodia to access legal identity and essential public services. To support the implementation, the United Nations supported capacity-building for 680 government on the new legal framework, inclusive registration processes and facilitated high-level exchanges with Thailand to learn about inclusive civil registration practices.

The United Nations contributed to strengthening meaningful engagement of the RGC and civil society organizations, especially from marginalized groups including Indigenous Peoples, persons with disabilities, media organizations and LGBT representatives in the fourth Universal Periodic Review cycle. In addition,

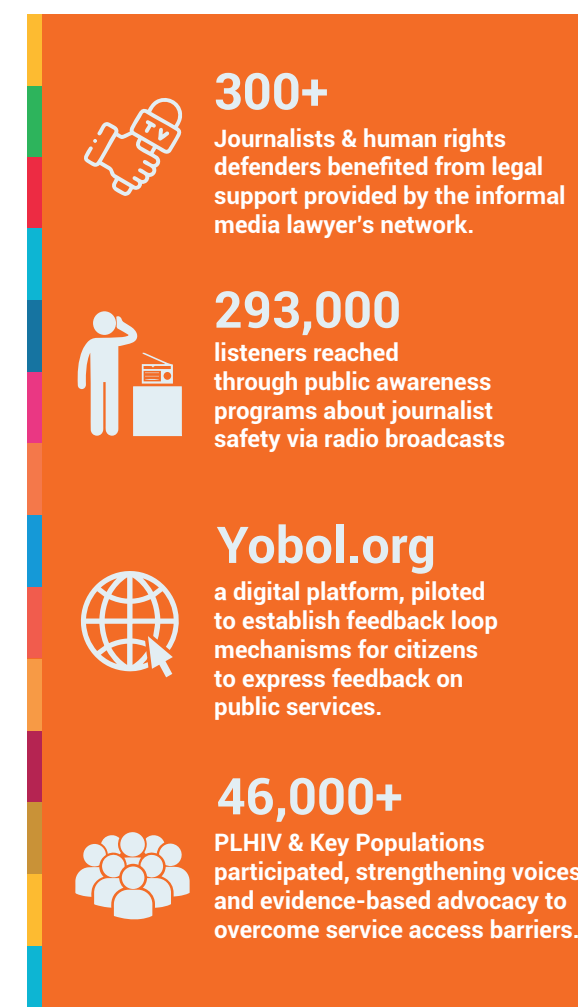
national stakeholders were enabled to track and implement recommendations, as evidenced by the successful dissemination of treaty body recommendations and progress on the initial Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities State party report. Moreover, private sector accountability was also strengthened through a human rights monitoring system for 128 Cambodian private employment agencies.

The United Nations also contributed to strengthening labour migration protections, particularly with Thailand, through policy updates and improved bilateral cooperation. ASEAN guidelines on migrant fishers' protection were adopted, which paved the way for bilateral agreement negotiations between Cambodia and Thailand. Migrant worker resource centres across nine provinces provided comprehensive support, including counseling, legal aid and skills training, securing around **US\$ 131,000 in compensation for 379 workers** and assisting almost **90,000 migrants** and their families. In addition, the institutional capacity of local administrations was strengthened through capacity building for 442 commune councils (85 per cent women) in safe migration practices, with a subsequent reach of nearly **5,800 community members**.

Criminal justice institutional capacity to respond to organized crime, cybercrime, cyber-enabled crimes and human trafficking has been strengthened through capacity building for 84 judiciary and law enforcement officers on countering and responding to human trafficking, and 96 justice practitioners and law enforcement officers on cybercrime and cyber-enabled crimes. Furthermore, **137** (21.8 per cent women) **criminal justice practitioners' skills** have been strengthened through capacity building on the development/improvement of the case management database and mutual legal assistance and extradition, in order to provide adequate responses to organized crime in Cambodia.



## 4.2: Civic Participation



Progress was made in 2024 in expanding civic engagement across multiple sectors. Significant steps were taken by the United Nations to promote the right to freedom of the press – which includes media freedom as well as journalists' safety – through capacity building for **over 550 judiciary actors** and security forces on specific measures to be taken to protect journalists' safety, and through the establishment of an informal media lawyer's network providing legal support to over **300 journalists and human rights defenders**. Public awareness of journalists' safety increased through coverage of the topic on radio programmes, reaching nearly **293,000 listeners**.

The inclusive civic participation was promoted through targeted capacity building and multi-stakeholder engagement on citizen and CSO participation in budgeting at the district/municipal and commune/sangkat levels. This support resulted in key recommendations for improving transparency and accountability, leading to new guidelines and monitoring mechanisms for inclusive budgetary processes.

Youth engagement flourished, with more than **1,100 adolescents and youth** (627 females) empowered to advocate for sexual and reproductive health, gender equality and GBV prevention, leading to **122 youth-led projects** – a notable increase from 113 in 2023.

The United Nations supported conducting the 2024 Governance Survey to assess service delivery, responsiveness, civic engagement, transparency and accountability. The results of the survey will inform Government responses to improve institutional accountability.

Citizens in three municipalities (Banlung, Kampong Cham and Siem Reap) have been empowered through the establishment of feedback loop mechanisms, allowing citizens to express their feedback/comments on public services. This pilot program of the **yobol.org digital platform** has collected nearly **1,500 feedback responses** (more than 1,100 from women). Feedback was shared with local service providers, health centers and municipal administrations to improve services.

For HIV-related support, community-led monitoring for HIV services expanded from 7 to 12 provinces, resulting in the participation of nearly **46,000 people living with HIV** and individuals in key population groups, strengthening the voices of and evidence-based advocacy for people living with HIV and Key Populations to address service access barriers.



“The collaboration with the United Nations holds immense value for our indigenous community as it enables us to amplify our voices through various media platforms. It plays a crucial role in supporting our community media program, empowering indigenous youth in Cambodia by enhancing their media literacy and digital skills.”

- Mr. Naung Sam Oeung, Executive Director of Conserve Indigenous Peoples Languages, a local non-government organization.



### 4.3. Gender-based Violence and Discrimination

Protection systems and services saw comprehensive improvements in 2024. Institutional responses were strengthened by the **launch of standard operating procedures for child protection case management**, accompanied by joint ministerial Prakas for implementation issued by the Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation.

Gender-based violence prevention and response mechanisms were enhanced through the **expansion of five new district working groups on GBV**, the development of One Stop Service Units guidelines, and capacity development of national police and the Ministry of Women's Affairs, including the operationalization of **helpline/hotline** which allows police and the Ministry to receive and respond to GBV cases more effectively. These measures are yielding results, with more than 100 cases reported in 2024 through the helpline and in person. In addition, the United Nations also supported comprehensive capacity building for factories, trade unions and the Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training to address gender-based violence and harassment at work, engaging 155 participants (68 per cent women).

Digital innovation played a key role in increasing awareness and facilitating response on gender equality and GBV. With the support from the United Nations, **positive parenting chatbot**, **GBV Safe App** for GBV support services, and the “**Youth Health Mobile app**” were operational, reaching over **40,000 adolescents and youth**.

The Policy Dialogue on HIV-Related Stigma and Discrimination brought together 40 high-level representatives from government sectors, CSOs and communities to develop key actions to address discrimination in education, health care, community and workplace settings.

40,000+ adolescents and youth were reached through positive parenting chatbot and the Youth Health app.

Standard Operating Procedures for child protection case management was launched.

### From A Simple Transgender Woman to A Strong Advocate

Born and raised in Pursat province, which is around 200 km from the capital city, Peosamnang faced numerous challenges growing up as a transgender woman in a conservative society. She faced discrimination, social exclusion and limited access to health care and employment. These challenges were compounded by the stigma surrounding HIV/AIDS and sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics (SOGIESC), which disproportionately affects the LGBTQI+ community. Peosamnang's personal experiences with these issues fueled her determination to create change and shaped her commitment to fight for the rights of marginalized communities, particularly young key populations. She was determined to live authentically and pursue her passion for advocacy.

With the support of the United Nations and funding from Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Peosamnang found the resources and mentorship she needed to amplify her voice. She became a leader within the young key population network, advocating for LGBTQI+ and SOGIESC rights, HIV/AIDS awareness and community empowerment. In 2024, through her work on social media and community engagement, she reached thousands of young people to raise awareness about SOGIESC and HIV/AIDS prevention. Through national and regional mechanisms, she ensured that the concerns and needs of young key populations were heard and addressed in national policies and programmes. “*The support from the United Nations and DFAT has been instrumental in our advocacy efforts. I have been able to participate in platforms and meetings where youth voices are really needed and matter. I have been able to contribute to shaping national programming for youth and health, and see these activities implemented on the ground,*” Peosamnang shared.



### STORY



“In 2024, through my work on social media and various community engagements, I reached thousands of young people to raise awareness about SOGIESC and HIV prevention.”

Soth peosamnang, 27-year-old transgender woman





## 4.4. Digital Transformation

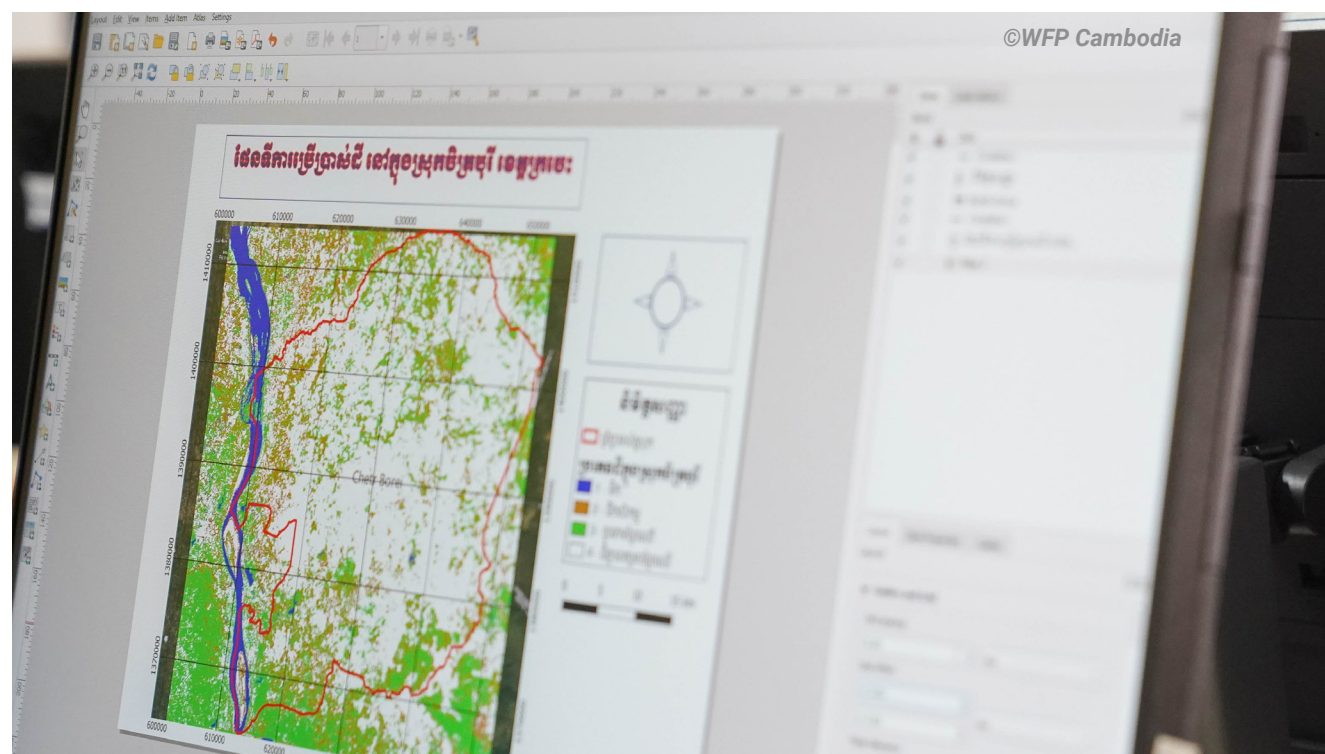
The United Nations supported digital transformation in 2024 focused on inclusive digital development and the protection of digital rights through the development of law, framework, information system and readiness assessment.

With United Nations support, the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications successfully hosted the Partner2Connect (P2C) national roundtable, **mobilizing 50 pledges worth US\$ 537.96 million** from 26 entities to advance Cambodia's digital transformation.

United Nations technical assistance to align the draft **Personal and Data Privacy law** with international human rights standards helped ensure the protection of personal data, while the **Digital, Media and Information Literacy Competency Framework** was endorsed and disseminated to equip citizens with necessary skills and knowledge to responsibly navigate and benefit from digital spaces and to counter disinformation and misinformation. The readiness assessment of Cambodia's AI ethical development process was initiated to support its national AI strategy development. The assessment of Cambodia's digital economy was supported to inform policy recommendations. In addition, digital security was enhanced through the development of the Anti-Scam Handbook, protecting vulnerable communities from falling victim to online scams.

The **Health Financing Information System** enhanced resource allocation for universal health coverage. Social service delivery was improved through the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation's integrated case management system.

At the subnational level, the **Smart City Action Plan for Preah Sihanouk** province demonstrated commitment to people-centred digital development.



## Partnerships



### Partnership with the Government

The UNCT held its **high-level annual dialogue** with the Royal Government of Cambodia, chaired by the Prime Minister. The 2024 dialogue focused on key policies and transformational priorities related to SDG Transitions, Education and Jobs, and Social Protections to advance a stronger foundation for Cambodia's LDC graduation and accelerate SDG implementation progress.

In addition, the United Nations in partnership with the National Bank of Cambodia commenced **co-convening a multi-stakeholder consultation process on microfinance** in Cambodia. Subsequently a series of actions across five priority areas (regulation and supervision; borrower support; technical enhancement; focus on informal lending and local authorities; Insurance) were adopted to be implemented over the short, medium and longterm.

### Country Pooled Fund

The UNCT held dialogues with partners on establishing the **Cambodia Pooled Fund**. This fund modality was proposed to leverage the partnership and institutional expertise of the United Nations, Cambodia Development Resource Institute, and Future Forum to enhance national research, data, strategic foresight, and behavioral insights, thereby accelerating SDG progress.

### Partnership with development partners and civil society stakeholders

In 2024, the UNCT continued convening the **UN-Development Partners Forum** in Cambodia to enhance coordination and partnership. The Resident Coordinator also co-hosted meetings on SDGs and Human Rights with diplomats, addressing issues like trafficking in persons and online scams. The dialogue led to a joint analysis to inform further discussions with the RGC. The UNCT endorsed the **UN-CSO Engagement Framework** to provide a structured platform for CSOs to engage with the United Nations on Sustainable Development Goals.

### Partnership with the private sector

In a significant step towards accelerating the achievement of the SDGs in Cambodia, the United Nations and AEON MALL (Cambodia) Co., Ltd. partnered to host **Together Actions for SDGs 2024**. The event united key stakeholders – government counterparts, businesses, youth groups and the public – to drive Cambodia's collective progress towards a more sustainable future. More importantly, the event was acknowledged by the Prime Minister of Cambodia via a short video calling for actions from all stakeholders to jointly support actions for SDGs.



## United Nations Coherence, Effectiveness and Efficiency

The year 2024 was the first year of implementation for the Cooperation Framework 2024–2028. Under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator, the focus was on setting up and improving the governance structure of the new Cooperation Framework, including the development of joint communication strategy and the terms of reference for the Results Groups and other thematic groups. In addition, the six global transitions (transforming education, food systems, energy access, social protection and jobs, biodiversity conservation and the data dividend) and two additional transitions (GBV and digital transformation) were also mainstreamed in the Cooperation Framework.

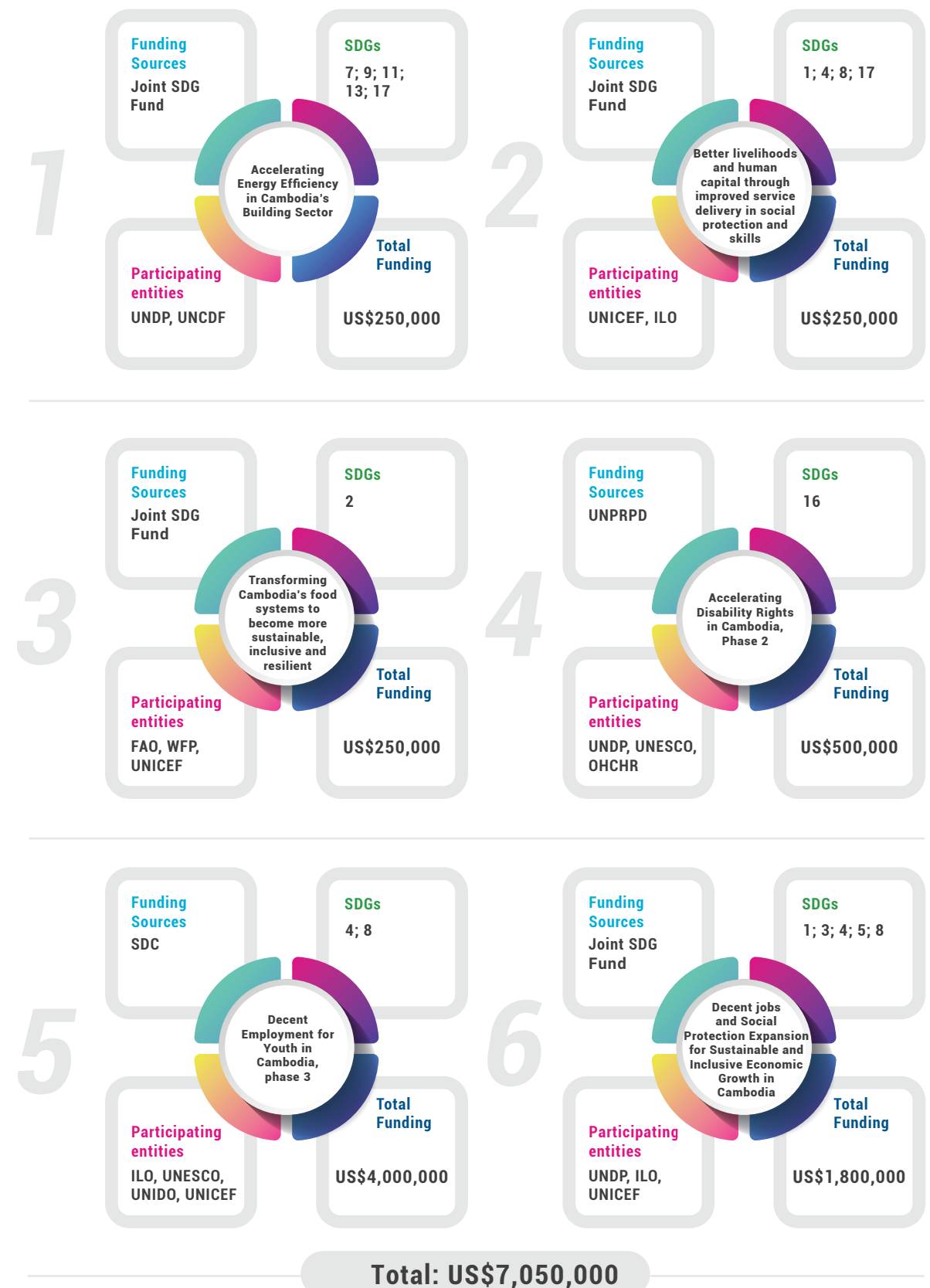
To improve coherence and effectiveness in the implementation, the areas of joint planning and joint collaboration were identified by the Results Groups under the leadership of the Programme Management Team.

The Operation Management Team worked collaboratively to strengthen cooperation and better align operational arrangements among

agencies through common services and long-term agreements within the implementation of the Business Operations Strategy. The current common services, including premises management, security services, printing, ICT, travel service and vehicle rental service, continuously support all participating agencies in reducing administrative and financial costs.

Regarding common premises and efficiency, the UNCT has initiated a formal dialogue with the government on establishing Common Premises. Although no outcome has materialized yet, the request also was presented to the Prime Minister. While awaiting the government's response, the United Nations is preparing an interim plan. In 2024, ten United Nations agencies developed a joint interim common premises plan, with a building identified and a detailed plan being finalized for a mid-2025 move. This initiative aims to improve collaboration, coordination, communication, and efficiency through a reduced premises footprint and lower operating costs.

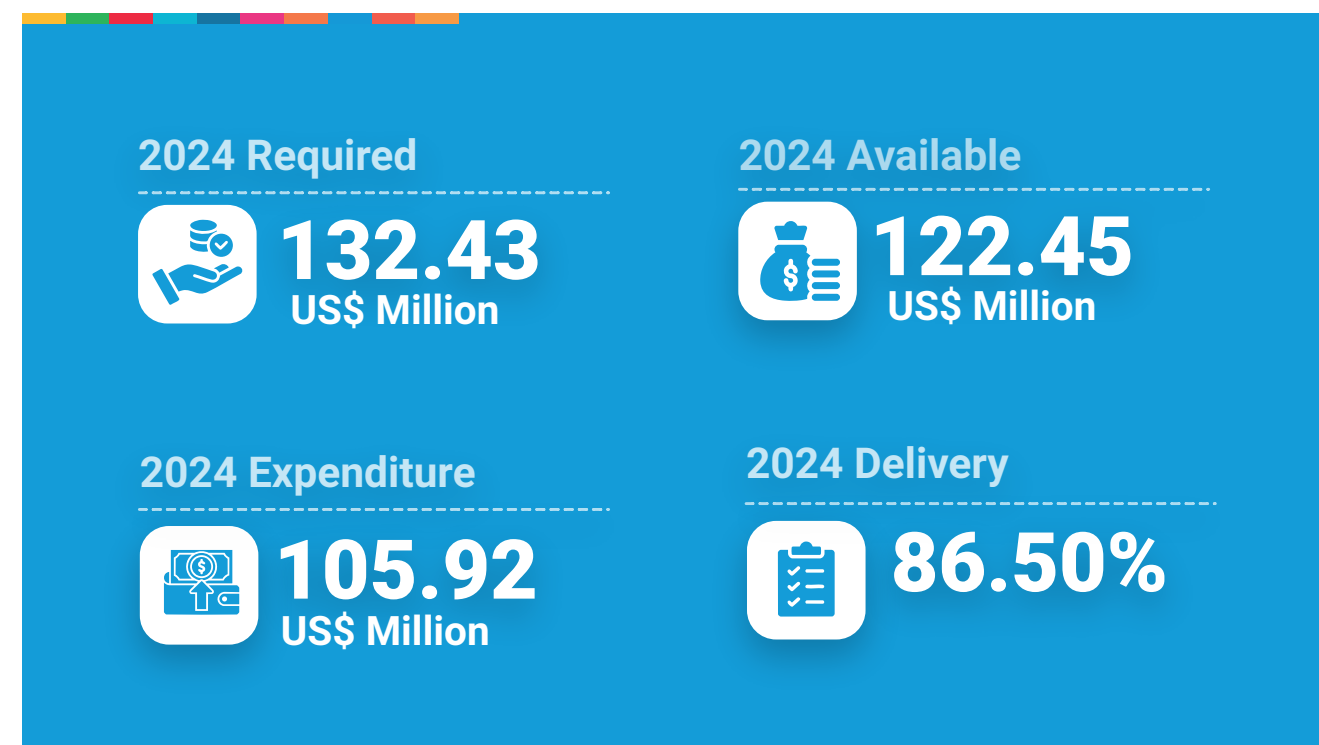
## Joint Programmes Mobilised in 2024



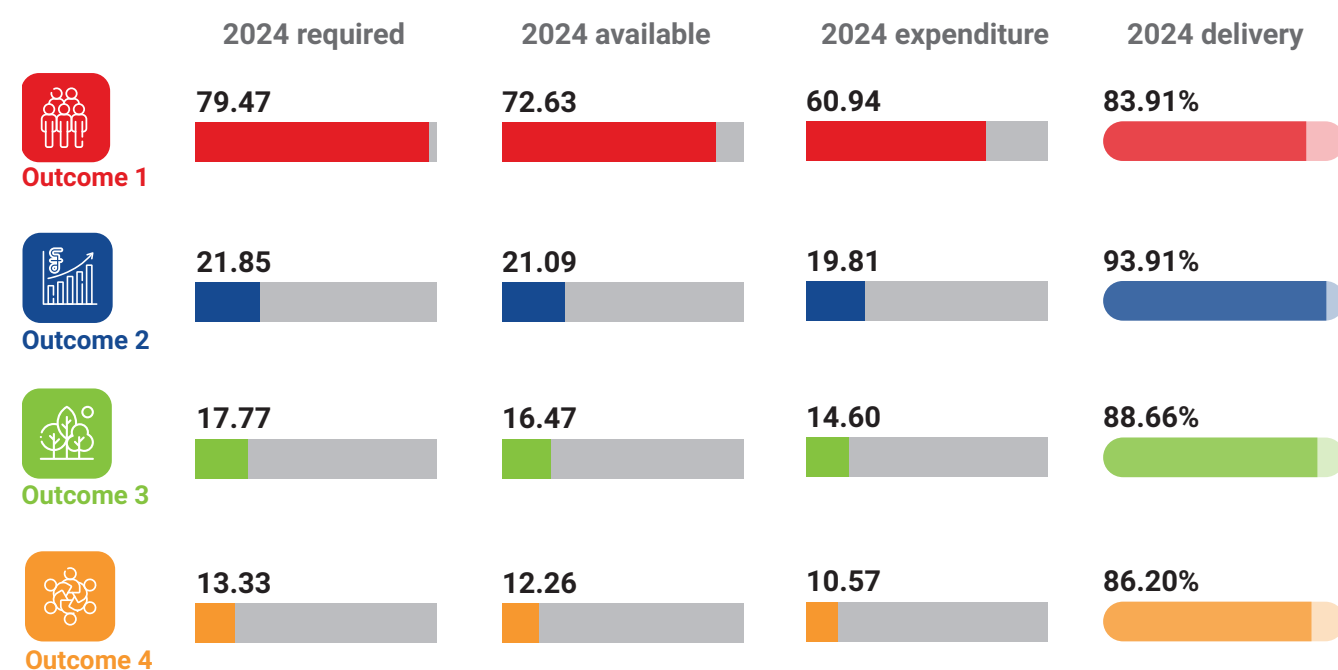
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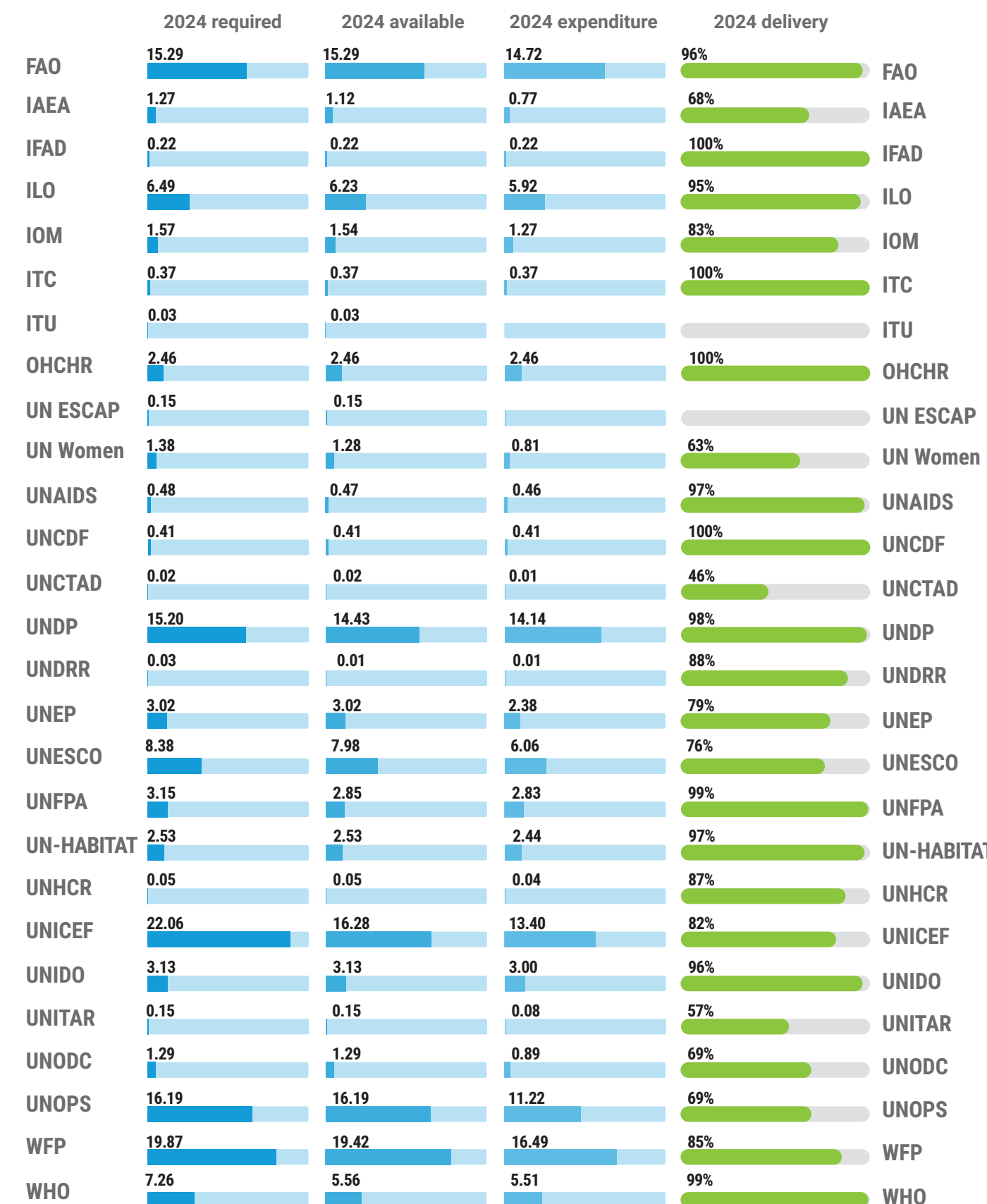
## Financial Overview 2024



### By outcome (US\$ Million)



### By organization (US\$ Million)





# CHAPTER 3

## UNCT KEY FOCUS FOR 2025

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### Outcome 1: HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

The United Nations will continue supporting Cambodia's progress towards UHC through a PHC-centred approach. The United Nations is committed to enhancing food system governance by supporting policies, strategies and dialogues. The United Nations will continue to support the education sector for better quality and accessible education, focused on teacher development, early-grade learning, school food programmes, inclusive education with a gender focus, health education/comprehensive sexuality education, skills development and lifelong learning. The United Nations is also working on policies to increase social protection coverage, focusing on the inclusion of children aged 3 to 5 and persons with disabilities, extending beyond internally displaced persons households.



### Outcome 2: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION

The United Nations will support the Government in mobilizing investments for agrifood system transformation by developing investment and financing strategies, strengthening small and medium enterprises and farmer organizations in business planning and pitching, facilitating business matching and investment forums, supporting policies and techniques that lead to increasing levels of formalization of businesses, decent work conditions, comprehensive and innovative financing for development, enhancing statistical eco-system, supporting demographic resilience, economic growth and trade competitiveness by aiding LDC graduation, implementing green trade standards and exploring new growth sources.



### Outcome 3: ENVIRONMENT

The United Nations will continue providing technical assistance to produce data and analytics for policy planning and development of policy and regulation for natural resources management, reducing and phasing out pollutants with a focus on reducing plastic and air pollution, continuing the support on NDC, and enhancing Cambodia's climate resilience by strengthening climate-risk-informed programming and disaster risk reduction, particularly in remote communities in high-risk areas.



### Outcome 4: SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION

The United Nations will continue to provide technical support to duty bearers for strengthening effective and accountable institutions, including aligning legislation and processes to international standards, addressing stigma and discrimination, gender-based violence, abuse and harmful practices against marginalized populations, and community-led monitoring and inclusive and participatory consultation and feedback mechanisms. The United Nations will continue advancing digital transformation, addressing cyber-related crimes and disinformation, digital scams and misinformation.



# ACRONYMS

<b>AMR</b>	Antimicrobial resistance
<b>BTR</b>	Biennial Transparency Report
<b>CQS</b>	Cambodia Quality Seal
<b>CSOs</b>	Civil Society Organizations
<b>GBV</b>	Gender-Based Violence
<b>HDI</b>	Human Development Index
<b>LANGO</b>	Law on Associations and NGOs
<b>LDC</b>	Least Developed Country
<b>NDCs</b>	Nationally Determined Contributions
<b>PHC</b>	Primary Health Care
<b>RGC</b>	Royal Government of Cambodia
<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>TSBR</b>	Tonlé Sap Biosphere Reserve
<b>UHC</b>	Universal Health Coverage
<b>UNCT</b>	United Nations Country Team
<b>UNSDCF</b>	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework





UNITED NATIONS  
CAMBODIA

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# ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT



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