



UNITED NATIONS  
CAMBODIA



DECADE  
OF  
ACTION

# ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT 2022 CAMBODIA

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# Acronyms

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<b>APPLE</b>	Action Pour Les Enfants
<b>ASEAN</b>	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
<b>BEEP</b>	Basic Education Equivalency Programme
<b>CPD</b>	Continuous Professional Development
<b>CSDG</b>	Cambodia Sustainable Development Goal
<b>CSO</b>	Civil Society Organization
<b>FDI</b>	Foreign Direct Investment
<b>FLP</b>	Factory Literacy Programme
<b>GBV</b>	Gender-Based Violence
<b>GDP</b>	Gross Domestic Product
<b>LNOB</b>	Leave No One Behind
<b>M&amp;E</b>	Monitoring and Evaluation
<b>MoEYS</b>	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport
<b>MoSVY</b>	Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation
<b>MoU</b>	Memorandum of Understanding
<b>MoWA</b>	Ministry of Women's Affairs
<b>MSME</b>	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
<b>NCDs</b>	Non-Communicable Diseases
<b>NGO</b>	Non-Governmental Organization
<b>NIS</b>	National Institute of Statistics
<b>NSAF</b>	National Social Assistance Fund
<b>PLHIV</b>	People Living with HIV/AIDS
<b>SDG</b>	Sustainable Development Goal
<b>SME</b>	Small and Medium Enterprise
<b>TVET</b>	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UNCT</b>	United Nations Country Team
<b>UNDAF</b>	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
<b>UNSDCF</b>	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
<b>VAW</b>	Violence Against Women
<b>WASH</b>	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
<b>WFP</b>	World Food Programme

# Foreword

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On behalf of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Cambodia, I am pleased to present the 2022 Annual Results Report. Throughout the year, the United Nations (UN) in Cambodia continued to work in close partnership with the Royal Government of Cambodia, building capacities and providing technical assistance to support the country's progress towards its national development objectives and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Despite the unprecedented challenges presented concurrently by the COVID-19 pandemic, the food and energy crisis, and global tensions, Cambodia has demonstrated immense resolve and emerged both with lessons learned and strengthened systems to face forthcoming hindrances to its development goals. Together with the Government, we have strived to reduce vulnerabilities with the aim to leave no one behind, and to increase sustainability to ensure Cambodia is able to withstand future shocks related to climate change, public health, and other challenges. Although the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have lingered, we have witnessed Cambodia's remarkable resilience and capacity to rapidly recover. Shifting from the initial emergency phase to the sustained management of COVID-19, in 2022, the UNCT supported the Government to draw on lessons learned from the pandemic to improve preparedness, response, and resilience to future shocks. These lessons learned have been adapted into our joint priorities and planning for the year ahead.

Joint programming within the UN system, as a result of the UN reform process, has strengthened the support we provide in close partnership with the Government, the private sector and civil society. In 2022, the UNCT in Cambodia implemented 10 joint programmes with a total budget of over US\$13 million. Targeted forums – such as the Development Partners Forum and the Humanitarian Response Forum – provided space for coordination and partnership between development partners and between the UNCT, international non-governmental and other organizations for emergency

preparedness and response. These joint efforts contributed to improvements in health, education, economy, social protection, and natural resource management, while also helping ensure that the groups most at risk of being left behind were reached.

In health, improvements were noted in sexual and reproductive, maternal, neonatal, and child health services, and nutrition interventions. The mortality rate for children under-five more than halved since 2014, and the maternal mortality rate declined by nearly 10 percent since 2014.

In education, the UNCT supported the Government to recover learning losses and take measures to ensure SDG4 is achieved. Efforts centred on development and implementation of a first-of-its-kind, national continuous professional development (CPD) system, providing all teachers in Cambodia with career development opportunities.

Social protection policy and programme design remained a key priority, with significant UNCT investment. Around 2.56 million National Social Security Fund members benefited from improved services through modernisation of the fund in 2022. Two additional shock-responsive cash transfer programmes supported the response to flooding, reaching 99,169 severely affected households in 15 provinces, as well as the response to high inflation, reaching 260,526 vulnerable households.

Economic opportunities were expanded in 2022 via decent work, economic productivity, institutional reforms, and enterprise innovation and technology. Together with the Government and the private sector, the UNCT supported the digital transformation of the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) system and literacy programmes to reskill and upskill workers impacted by the COVID-19 crisis and young people to meet current labour market needs. With Khmer Enterprise, the UNCT established a national incubation centre for the entrepreneurship incubation platform, IDEA. To close the financing gap for women entrepreneurs, the UN guaranteed loans of

nearly \$10 million under the women credit guarantee scheme in 2022. The UNCT supported issuance of the Khmer Riel sovereign bond, which raised \$17.6 million.

The UNCT worked with national and sub-national authorities as well as communities to manage natural resources more sustainably, enhance access to affordable, diverse and healthy diets, improve the safety of food and water, cope better with disasters and climate change, and protect the environment. Data shows improvements in rural communities' access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene facilities. From 2015 to 2022, those among the rural population with at least basic drinking water increased from 54 percent to 78 percent, and those with basic sanitation increased from 39 percent to 76 percent. The UNCT also supported a mine clearance programme, enabling access to the safe use of 34.25 km<sup>2</sup> of land for community and livelihood development, which generated an estimated \$2 million in income from agriculture. In the critical areas of climate change adaptation and disaster management and preparedness, the Government was supported to strengthen early warning mechanisms, climate monitoring and the capacity of sub-national authorities.

To improve participation and accountability, partnerships between the UNCT, the Government and other actors focused on strengthening grievance mechanisms, preventing violence against women and girls, and developing mechanisms for child protection. The UNCT supported the development of strategies, policies and laws aligned with international norms and standards and engaged marginalised and vulnerable populations. A media support desk was created to support the safety of journalists and provide legal assistance to reporters and human rights defenders. The UNCT also partnered directly with marginalised communities to ensure their voices were heard.

UNCT support would not be successful without our long and trusted partnership with the Royal Government of Cambodia. I would like to thank the

Government for our continued collaboration, as we leverage our respective strengths in the service of greater good – the prosperity, safety and dignity of the Cambodian people. As we look ahead, we will continue to partner closely with the Government to support its efforts to achieve its national development vision and the SDGs, in cooperation with development partners, civil society and the private sector. With the central principle of leaving no one behind, we will continue to support the Government to work alongside community members, with an emphasis on the most marginalised groups, and ensure their perspectives are integrated into national development planning and programming. Together, we will strive to ensure Cambodia's objective of becoming an upper-middle-income country by 2030 and a high-income country by 2050, with the benefits of sustainable development accessible to, and enjoyed by, all.



**Joseph Scheuer**  
**Resident Coordinator**  
**United Nations in Cambodia**

# UN COUNTRY TEAM



## Key Government Counterparts

1. APSARA National Authority
2. Council for Agriculture and Rural Development
3. Council for the Development of Cambodia
4. Cambodian Human Rights Committee
5. Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority
6. Cambodian National Council for Women
7. Disability Action Council
8. Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
9. Ministry of Economy and Finance
10. Ministry of Environment
11. Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport
12. Ministry of Health
13. Ministry of Interior
14. Ministry of Justice
15. Ministry of Industry, Science, Technology and Innovation
16. Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training
17. Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction
18. Ministry of Mines and Energy
19. Ministry of Planning
20. Ministry of Public Works and Transport
21. Ministry of Rural Development
22. Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation
23. Ministry of Women's Affairs
24. Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology
25. National AIDS Authority
26. National Committee for Sub-National Democratic Development
27. National Committee for Disaster Management
28. National Centre for HIV/AIDS, Dermatology and STDs
29. National Council for Sustainable Development
30. National Social Protection Council

# Chapter 1: Key Development Context

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Cambodia, home to over 16 million inhabitants, has experienced improved human development in recent years. With advancements in income, health and education, Cambodia ranked in the medium human development category and 146th of 191 countries on the 2021 Human Development Index (HDI)<sup>1</sup> and met the criteria for graduation from least-developed country status. While the national poverty rate was nearly halved between 2009 and 2019, with economic expansion, rising wages, and improved standards of living, however, the COVID-19 pandemic stifled this progress and sent thousands back into poverty.<sup>2</sup> Between 2020 and the end of 2022, the poverty rate steadily increased by 2.8 percentage points.<sup>3</sup> As of 2020, much of the population hovered around the poverty line, with the poverty headcount notably high at **17.8 percent**. Children in Cambodia are most impacted by poverty, with as much as 50 percent of children experiencing it.<sup>4</sup>

Despite the challenges, Cambodia has demonstrated resilience and remarkable speed in its recovery from the pandemic. The Royal Government of Cambodia took measures to mitigate the overall impact of the pandemic, alleviating more widespread setbacks. As a result, in 2022, the Cambodian economy achieved an estimated **growth rate of 5.2 percent**, following a mere 3 percent in 2021.<sup>5</sup> Gross Domestic Product (**GDP**) growth was buoyed by strong export demands for garment and non-garment manufacturing products despite coinciding constraints resulting from the war in Ukraine, China's zero COVID-19 policy, and rising inflation. The expansionary fiscal policy also helped stimulate domestic demands and aid GDP growth, as did the Government's stimulus package (~\$913 million) for socio-economic interventions in 2022.

The **garment, footwear and travel goods sector** remained a key source of exports and GDP growth, although its contribution to the total exports (excluding gold) decreased (76.1 percent [2018], 63 percent [2022]). Exports from outside the garment, footwear and travel goods sector (excluding gold) rose 20.6 percent year-on-year in 2022,<sup>6</sup> revealing the gradual diversification of export products, alongside decreasing dependence on garment, footwear and travel goods. Despite low growth (0.7 percent) in 2022,<sup>7</sup> the **agriculture sector** continued to support GDP growth and cushioned livelihoods affected by the pandemic. Following decreased **tourism** in 2020 and 2021, the tourism sector rebounded in 2022. International tourist arrivals rose (196,495 [2021], 2.3 million [2022]), alongside an estimated 13.9 million domestic tourists.<sup>8</sup> Still, international arrivals in 2022 represented a mere 34.8 percent of pre-pandemic levels.

**Foreign direct investment (FDI)** barely recovered from 2020–2021. The FDI inflows in the first three quarters of 2022 were \$2.6 billion, **an increase of only 0.6 percent year-on-year**.<sup>9</sup> FDI concentrated on the garment, footwear and travel sector, which supported job creation and growth, underlining the importance of increasing efforts to attract FDI and mobilize domestic investments to build capital, create economic opportunities and employment, and bring the economy back on track.

**Inflation** rose to 7.8 percent in June 2022 and slowed to 3.2 percent in November.<sup>10</sup> As a net importer of fuel, food and fertilisers, rising prices due to supply chain disruptions driven by the war in Ukraine in the first half of 2022 led to high inflation. Cambodia is a highly dollarised economy as the share of foreign

<sup>1</sup> UNDP (2022). 'Doubling down on Cambodia's investments in human development to manage uncertain times.'

<sup>2</sup> World Bank (2022). 'Pandemic Checks Cambodia's Progress on Poverty.'

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> UNICEF Canada (n.d.). 'Cambodia: child Survival'.

<sup>5</sup> MEF (2023). 'Cambodia Macroeconomic Outlook 2023'.

<sup>6</sup> Based on data from the General Department of Customs and Excise (GDCE), MEF.

<sup>7</sup> MEF (2023). 'Cambodia Macroeconomic Outlook 2023'.

<sup>8</sup> Ministry of Tourism (2022). 'Tourism Statistics Report'.

<sup>9</sup> Based on data from the National Bank of Cambodia.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

currencies in the money supply is consistently above 80 percent.<sup>11</sup> This helped mute inflation as the US dollar appreciated against other currencies. At the same time, export competitiveness places Cambodia unfavourably next to its trading partners and export competitors. The exchange rate was stable (averaging KHR 4,102 per US dollar)<sup>12</sup> due to large foreign exchange reserves.

**Cambodia's economy** in the near term is marked by high uncertainty, with respect to uncertain external economic conditions. Ongoing global stresses, including the ongoing war in Ukraine and constrained finances, coinciding with China's economic slowdown, make Cambodia's economic performance vulnerable. Pre-existing **socio-economic vulnerabilities** further render Cambodia more susceptible to external shocks and aggravate the welfare and distributional impacts of the shocks. The enduring socio-economic impact of the pandemic, combined with the consequences of high inflation and intensifying climate change, have threatened the agriculture and food systems, jeopardising food security and nutrition. Despite progress, Cambodia is not on track to achieve universal basic **water supply, sanitation and hygiene** by 2030. Patients' out-of-pocket **health** expenditure remains exceptionally high – 60 percent of the total health expenditure – a burden for Cambodians.<sup>13</sup> In response to these needs, the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) has supported the Government to improve the safety of food and water and to strengthen the health system, including through targeted health services, such as nutrition interventions at the sub-national level.

Cambodia's **democratic and civic space** remains constrained. Following his mission in August 2022, the United Nations (UN) Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia noted the ongoing need to open the country's democratic

space, create fair and transparent political processes, and ensure the protection of human rights and environmental defenders, media and related organizations, allowing for all people to express their perspectives and concerns and fully participate in the democratic process in Cambodia, particularly those at risk of being left behind or those seeking to express legitimate opposition. In recent years, Cambodia has introduced legal measures, including amendments to election-related laws enabling banned politicians to request political rehabilitation and form new political parties. In the Commune Elections of June 2022, **several political parties** participated, including the reactivated opposition party, the Candlelight Party. Discussions with civil society organizations (CSOs) on amendments to the Law on Associations and Non-Governmental Organizations are ongoing and have helped ensure all organizations meet operational requirements.

Throughout 2022, the UNCT worked in close partnership with the Government to: expand social opportunities (Outcome 1), supporting improvements in health care, nutrition, education and social assistance, including programming to reduce gender-based violence (GBV) and improve services and protections for vulnerable populations; expand economic opportunities (Outcome 2), improving economic productivity, supporting institutional reforms, and fostering innovation and technology; support sustainable living (Outcome 3), improving natural resource management, food and water safety, and capacity to adapt and respond to climate change and natural disasters; strengthen participation and accountability (Outcome 4), improving grievance mechanisms, the prevention of violence against women and girls, and child protection mechanisms; and manage urbanization (Outcome 5), fostering inclusivity and improved services, with an emphasis on marginalised communities.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

<sup>13</sup> WHO (2022). 'Global Health Expenditure Database'.

## Chapter 2: Key Results of United Nations Development System Support to National Development Priorities

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## Outcome 1



## Expanding Social Opportunity



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In 2022, the UNCT continued to support the Government to respond to the lingering impacts of the pandemic, in health, nutrition, education and social protection. As of December 2022, over 91 percent of Cambodians had received the primary series of **COVID-19 vaccines** and 73 percent of elderly had also received a booster dose. In 2022, the UNCT built national and subnational capacity and supported the Government to draw on lessons learned from the pandemic to improve **preparedness, response and resilience** to other public health threats, including the successful management of monkeypox.

Technical support was also provided to strengthen national capacity on animal health, transboundary disease surveillance, antimicrobial resistance and One Health, and entailed reviewing the influenza programme to inform the respiratory disease surveillance system and developing a new field

epidemiology training programme strategic plan for 2022–2030 and antimicrobial stewardship policies, training curricula, and monitoring guidelines. Support to the Government’s longer term strategic directions in health included development of the fourth Health Strategic Plan 2023–2033, National Digital Health Strategy, Health Workforce Development Plan 2023–2033, an updated framework to the Primary Health Care and Community Participation Policy, and the National Strategic Plan for Migrant Health (2022–2030).

The UNCT also supported Competency Based Education for health professionals (core competency framework for midwives; **skills building** of faculty members at a competency based education training centre), and digital health (e.g. e-learning and online coaching platforms). To address Cambodia’s growing burden of **non-communicable diseases (NCDs)**, the

UNCT supported development and endorsement of the National Strategic Plan for the Prevention and Control of NCDs 2022–2030, the National Action Plan for Salt Reduction 2021–2027, and the Strategic Plan for Education and Reduction of Tobacco Use 2021–2026. The UNCT helped strengthen services in 94 health centres, and developed the Mental Health Strategic Plan 2023–2033 and the Substance Abuse Strategic Plan 2023–2033, built community capacity to facilitate linkages to needed services, and supported an integrated care package for older people.

Cambodia has made considerable progress towards the reduction of key **communicable diseases**, increasing focus on strategies to reach the most affected vulnerable groups at risk of being left behind, including mobile and migrant populations. The UNCT supported authorities to advance HIV prevention, treatment and care services for people who use drugs, building national capacity and helping increase outreach efforts in 2022. In 2022: 94,142 key populations were reached by HIV prevention services (38,726 female entertainment workers, 45,927 men who have sex with men, 8,676 transgender persons, 813 people who inject drugs); and 64,931 people living with HIV (PLHIV) received treatment and coverage of multi-month dispensing of anti-retroviral therapy to maintain continuity in treatment, leading to a 77 percent increase by November 2022, more than doubling since December 2020.

The National Center for Tuberculosis and Leprosy Control was supported to implement the national tuberculosis (TB) strategic plan, helping detect 32,865 cases in 2022, a 49 percent increase from 2021, and the UNCT supported the TB epidemiology review and the third TB prevalence survey, which guide TB policy and strategy development. The UNCT contributed to a significant reduction in **malaria cases (106,901 confirmed cases [2011], 4,053 [2022])**. Only **414 falciparum malaria cases** were reported in 2022. This significant achievement was guided by the Malaria Elimination Action Framework 2021 to 2025, whereby villages at greatest risk were prioritised and risk-specific strategies were implemented. The UNCT helped implement the viral hepatitis strategic plan 2021–2024, helping update treatment guidelines and building the capacities of health-care providers in 12 operational districts on viral hepatitis treatment, recording, and reporting. The UNCT supported the

development of national guidelines, capacity-building at provincial health departments and operational district levels, and routine immunisation services, in addition to outreach catch-up immunisation services and other essential health services prioritising underserved groups. Related surveillance data was maintained and a five-year **national immunisation strategy** developed.

In provinces where maternal and child mortality is high, the UNCT supported local health departments in early essential newborn care, **coaching midwives to improve service quality** and prompt referrals. All public health facilities now provide at least three **modern family planning methods** with UNCT support (skills building, maternal death audit structures, reviews) to reduce maternal deaths. With UNCT support, efforts to expand youth-friendly services in health centres resulted in 93,501 adolescents and youth (65 percent female) being served in 2022.

In the aftermath of the pandemic, the UNCT continued to support Cambodia in its efforts to improve education quality in 2022. This included development of a **national Continuous Professional Development (CPD)** system, the first of its kind, providing all teachers in Cambodia with career development opportunities. **In-service and pre-service teacher training programmes** (early childhood education, inclusive education, multilingual education, life skills) were developed or expanded. Materials and lesson plans for **life skills education on climate change** were developed and will be rolled out in 2023. The UNCT supported implementation of the **national early grade learning programme**, helping the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MoEYS) develop teaching and learning materials, a mentoring programme, and comprehensive teacher training to support foundational literacy and numeracy skills. The UNCT supported development of a grade 3 math **package**, completing the grades 1–3 teaching and learning material packages in math, and trained **~7,000 education staff** on use of the package. The **early grade reading package** was also rolled out; 579 teachers (66 percent female) received training and 808 teachers were mentored or coached. A national mentoring system was established; 9,500 mentoring visits were conducted in 2022, providing teachers with direct professional support.

In addition, the UNCT developed a **needs-based, blended in-service training programme** to upskill over 300 teacher educators in information, communications and technology and pedagogical skills in line with changing demands, 67 teacher educators (48 percent women) completed the Bachelor of Education programme developed with UNCT support, to upgrade their qualifications in line with international standards, and 114 directors and management staff of all teacher training colleges across Cambodia (11 of which were renovated with UNCT support) benefited from management training. The UNCT supported the construction and/or **rehabilitation of over 2,000 school infrastructures**, equipped kitchens, and supplied 1.5 megatonnes of seeds to support school gardening.

In 2022, the UNCT continued to support **comprehensive sexuality education** through the **provision of basic equipment and materials** to support the MoEYS to establish school health rooms in eight schools for youth counselling, consultation, and menstruation and hygiene support. School principals and teachers (70 [49% female]) were trained on comprehensive sexuality education.

With digital education a growing priority, a **national digital education strategy** was initiated with UNCT support, and the Human Resource **Management Information System** (HRMIS) was upgraded with online, decentralised operability and an integrated human resources database for civil service, contract, and pre-service staff to manage CPD and Teacher Career Pathway data to ensure related credits are recorded and can contribute to the career growth of teachers.

With UNCT support, stunting in children under-five **reduced from 32 percent in 2014 to 22 percent in 2021–2022**. Inequity persists (over 30 percent of the poorest contend with **stunting** versus 12.5 percent of the wealthiest). As a result of expanded outreach services, **209,914 children** (102,765 girls) were **screened for acute malnutrition, 6,657** of whom were admitted for treatment, 34 percent higher than in 2021. In 2022, 755 health workers from 249 health centres and 20 referral hospitals were trained on identification, referral and treatment of wasting. With UNCT support, Cambodia mobilized \$3.4 million, **reducing the funding gap for wasting**

**treatment services from 80 percent to 40 percent**, enabling the Government to expand prevention and treatment services to six new provinces in 2023. The UNCT also supported development of the second **Fast Track Roadmap** for improving nutrition. Under the SUN Business Network, a community of practice on rice fortification was established in 2022, and the UNCT provided technical support to **Green Trade**, and a government-owned miller to blend 500 metric tonnes of fortified rice to use in the school feeding programme. This rice benefited **55,928 students** (27,218 girls) in 222 schools across three provinces.

The UNCT continued to support the Government to deliver the **national COVID-19 Cash Transfer Programme for the Poor and Vulnerable Households**, reaching **706,648 households**. Technical assistance and delivery support was also provided for implementation of two additional shock-responsive cash transfer programmes for: households severely affected by floods, reaching **99,169 households** in 15 provinces; and vulnerable households affected by high inflation, reaching **260,526 households**. Over **215,400 schoolchildren** (49 percent girls) received breakfast, averaging 19 days per month. In 2022, the UNCT signed a strategy with the Government to hand over the school feeding programme by 2028. Support to three **routine national cash transfer programmes** continued with over 614,000 beneficiaries covered through the Cash Transfer Programme for Pregnant Women and Children under Two, the Scholarship Programme, and disability allowance. Support to the pension scheme allowed approximately **1.6 million additional workers** to accrue benefits for their retirement.

The UNCT supported the **Mid-Term Review of the National Social Protection Policy Framework 2016–2025**, helping refine the Government's vision for social protection and supporting revision of the framework in 2023. To expand the coverage of **social security** in the informal sector and better reach older persons, the UNCT supported discussions and policy research initiatives, to design a multi-tiered pension system and an integrated formalisation strategy covering micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). Plans are underway for a possible pilot programme.

The UNCT provided technical assistance to develop an **options paper on linkages among cash transfers**

**and complementary and basic services**, a shock-responsive complement to the Family Package,<sup>14</sup> and a survey of the opportunities and barriers faced by the poor and at-risk youth in accessing and engaging in TVET. The latter resulted in the draft design of the TVET Scheme for the poor and at-risk youth in line with Cambodia's Economic Recovery Plan; an early impact assessment of the model is being undertaken to support scale-up. UNCT support also contributed to the **national shock responsive social protection framework** to be adopted as a national policy in 2023, as well as efforts to document operational learning related to the direct provision of cash assistance to flood-affected populations, to inform future Government-led **shock-responsive social assistance schemes**. The Cash Transfer Payment Service Provider Assessment resulted in the diversification of payment options for cash transfer delivery. UNCT support also helped update the Minimum Expenditure Basket to support harmonisation of the transfer values for social assistance programmes. The Country-led Evaluation of the Cash Transfer Programme for Pregnant Women and Children under Two and its Government Management Plan were completed, with the programme reaching over 278,000 children and pregnant women over the course of the programme. In collaboration with the Asian Development Bank and the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Fund, the UNCT supported the collection of data for the Socio-Economic Impact Survey (phase III), on food and nutrition security and other essential needs of vulnerable populations.

The establishment of the **National Social Assistance Fund**, responsible for delivering all cash transfer

programmes, was a key achievement made possible with UNCT support to institutional building.<sup>15</sup> The UNCT supported the establishment of the **Social Security Regulator** under the Non-Banking Financial Service Act to provide regulatory oversight of the sector and improve public accountability and trust in the social security pillar of the social protection system.

The UNCT also helped develop tools and build institutional capacity for social protection. With World Bank support, the UNCT helped **revise the IDPoor poverty identification tools**. Building on a scoping study, the UNCT **expanded the scope of IDPoor registration of PLHIVs** in eight ART sites through a web-based registration system and other tools,<sup>16</sup> registering 583 PLHIV. IDPoor was further supported by a disaster management information system and development of a digital complaint mechanism.<sup>17</sup> The delivery capacity of the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation (MoSVY)/National Social Assistance Fund (NSAF) were further developed through UNCT investment in integrated information, communications and technology platforms and management information systems, capacity development and communication. The monitoring and evaluation (M&E) capacities of MoSVY/NSAF were further developed through an introduction of the digital M&E system for routine cash transfer programmes and further data collection under the disability identification mechanism. As a result, government officials in 1,652 communes are fully capacitated to deliver digitalized cash transfer programmes, identify persons with disability and the IDPoor, with a strong capacity for digitalized M&E and case management of complaints and grievances.

<sup>14</sup> The Family Package of integrated cash transfer programmes will be rolled out after the Government's decision to exit from the emergency COVID-19 Cash Transfer Programme.

<sup>15</sup> Including regulatory framework, NSAF strategy, capacity development and organization development strategies linked to continued support to further cash transfer digitalized delivery system.

<sup>16</sup> The tools included a mobile app, training, IT equipment set-up and community awareness of the registration, which resulted in 583 PLHIV individuals registered as of 31 December 2022.

<sup>17</sup> Launched in quarter three of 2022, the new complaint mechanism enables an effective complaint management, tracking and resolution while adhering to the principle of confidentiality and protection of whistleblowers among other features.

## From School Meals Beneficiary to Nutrition and Innovation Champion: How World Food Programme Support Transformed a Young Cambodian Woman's Life

Since its inception in 1999, millions of children have benefited from the school-feeding programme of the World Food Programme (WFP) in Cambodia. Ying Sreyrov, now 26 years old and a successful programme manager at a large non-profit, is just one of those many beneficiaries.

Looking back, Sreyrov has clear memories of the school meals she received as a child and recalls how they helped her stay focused in school and supported her family: "My mother was so busy trying to do her job and earn money and it would have been very difficult for her to cook all our meals too."

In Cambodia, women like Sreyrov's mother are regularly faced with multiple time-consuming responsibilities as they shoulder traditional household responsibilities and work to supplement their family's incomes. Sreyrov recounts: "I remember her busying herself from dawn to dusk all the time."

While Sreyrov's family was not as economically disadvantaged as some of her peers, many families in her neighborhood were struggling and the meals motivated parents to keep their children in school: "Some of my friends came to school really excited, because they knew they would get food for sure." School meals offer an important safety net that helps keep children, especially girls, in school. "Without that food, those poorer students might not have had the energy to study," she remembers.

The support Sreyrov received helped her earn an undergraduate scholarship to Paññāsāstra University of Cambodia, where she studied environmental science, and led her to a future scholarship to study in the United States. When she returned to Cambodia, she was determined to put her knowledge into action and give back to people in her country. She joined [Cricket House](#), a newly established social enterprise exploring the use of crickets as a sustainable source of protein. As an innovation researcher, she learned from the work of pioneering scientists around the world and applied her findings in the Cambodian context.

While at Cricket House, the organization joined the WFP-supported [Scaling up Nutrition Business Network \(SBN\)](#), the world's leading private sector initiative dedicated to improving nutrition. With technical support from WFP and the SBN, Cricket House competed in and won a prestigious WFP Innovation Accelerator award, helping them further accelerate their mission and impact. The award enabled them to develop an environmentally friendly and micronutrient-rich snack for school-aged children, to discontinue serving unhealthy snacks in or near primary schools in Cambodia and supplement the nutritional benefits of the school meals programme. At the same time, Sreyrov joined Cambodia's burgeoning start-up scene and took part in Cambodia's Hackathon event for tech innovators and joined a UN Women project where her project was shortlisted for an award.

In order to better champion the potential of youth and technology, Sreyrov recently moved on from Cricket House to manage an incubator programme at the large youth-led non-profit, [PEPY Empowering Youth](#). "I'm working closely with young people and helping them identify their dreams and find pathways to success with their start-up ideas," she says. "We provide them holistic support such as the tools, networks and resources needed to enable them to succeed in school and realize their dreams."

Remembering the critical role that the school-feeding programme played in helping her dreams become a reality, Sreyrov is also a strong advocate for the importance of school meals and innovation. "I am really encouraged that the Government is now taking over the management of school meals," she says, reflecting on the recent transition from WFP to government ownership of the national home-grown school feeding programme.



From her participation in the WFP-supported school meals programme as a child to her role as an innovator supporting improved nutrition in schoolchildren through healthy cricket snacks, Sreyov's journey with WFP has truly come full circle. Despite the challenges she has faced and seen the country endure firsthand, she is optimistic about the future, if the country continues to invest in its children: "I'd like all young people to have the resources and the opportunities to achieve what they want and pursue their education as far as they can go. Many people have capabilities, but no opportunities, and that's not fair. Everyone should be able to contribute to the nation's development."



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## Outcome 2



## Expanding Economic Opportunity



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In promoting decent employment, UNCT support in 2022 prioritised: skill-building targeting the private sector and using an online approach; expansion of non-formal education and digital education (Basic Education Equivalency Programme [BEEP], Factory Literacy Programme [FLP]); and MSME support to improve competitiveness and resilience via digitalization. Around **8,500** people benefited from increased access to employment and skills development that responds to the job market, **873 companies and 12 TVET training institutions** received technical skills development support, **1,889 out-of-school youth and garment workers** (60 percent female) received a second chance to complete basic education and upgrade their skills through the BEEP and FLP-SkillsFuture programmes, an electronic recognition of prior learning (**e-RPL platform**) for certification in tourism skills was

launched with the National Committee for Tourism Professionals, and **235 students** (68 percent female) participated in technical and vocational education and training (TVET) through the **Online Learning Management System** (Moodle) and face-to-face in seven schools. In addition, **526 businesses** received support to digitalize their business practices, with 224 reporting notable improvements via increased sales and profit, improvement in management and quality, reduced costs, and staff retention despite pandemic impacts. The capacities of an additional **101 MSMEs** (39 percent women-owned) were built on digital transformation, of which 47 registered their business online or were onboarded onto e-commerce marketplaces, with 22 reporting increases in revenue after the incubation programme, and 306 new jobs created. To support youth entrepreneurship, the UNCT also trained **8,000 young people and small and**

**medium enterprise (SME) owners** in 2022, 878 of whom in the tourism and agriculture sectors benefited from a new tool to support resilience against risks, like COVID-19.

To enhance economic productivity, competitiveness, and innovation, the UNCT focused on supporting the Government to identify new development financing options, MSMEs via digitalization and value addition in fisheries products, and factories to ensure resource efficiency and clean production. Support included a draft **Integrated National Financing Framework** to support a shift from funding to development finance and prepare for graduation from lesser developed country (LDC) status, issuance of a sovereign bond in local currency, a precedence in sovereign debt securities, lending to **\$17.6 million** raised, improved access to local financing, expanded fiscal space and improved public finance sustainability. The **first SDG Investor Map** was launched to harness private sector contributions to the SDGs, and the **first women credit guarantee scheme** was supported to close the financing gap for women entrepreneurs, resulting in **\$9.66 million** worth of loans in 2022.

Post-harvest fisheries benefited from a **Cambodia Quality Seal** certification and auditing system, **Strategic Framework for developing the Value Chain**, and **Regulatory Framework for Veterinary Medicine Products**, each developed with UNCT support. A Letter of Intent was signed with Institut Pasteur du Cambodge to collaborate on the accreditation of the Laboratory of Environment and Food Safety of the IPC based on ISO 17025, and the UNCT supported the Fisheries Administration to conduct an audit of the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China to export pangasius products to China. In addition, the UNCT supported 39 enterprises to develop business plans, 28 of which were endorsed and awarded fast track business development support, audit coaching, and food safety certificates.

The UNCT provided technical assistance and capacity development to 35 factories and SMEs to promote green manufacturing with resource efficiency and cleaner production tools, resulting in investment in green technologies, implementation of an environmental system, and Environmental Management Accounting, lending to a reduction in **85,000 tonnes** of carbon dioxide equivalent, **31,000 megawatt-hours** of energy saved in 2022.

Through the Employment Intensive Investments Programme, **700 returning migrant workers** and community members were employed to support rural infrastructure projects in Battambang and Siem Reap, and **170 tourism professionals** (100 female) received capacity-building support on food and beverage services in Siem Reap, an initiative that is being scaled up in Siem Reap, Battambang, and Banteay Meanchey. In collaboration with the Cambodian Women Entrepreneurs Association and Pact Cambodia, **1,800 entrepreneurs** benefited from entrepreneurial training in 2022.

The UNCT also supported integration of the **Know About Business** entrepreneurship education into the **national education curriculum** (grades 10, 11, 12) and extra-curricular activities, engaging **1,082 young people** (670 female) and resulting in the establishment of 130 new businesses (90 women-owned) in 2022, the creation of around **500 jobs** (agriculture, tourism and hospitality, manufacturing, and information and communications technology [ICT]) for **young people**, and 150 existing youth-owned businesses (88 female) employing around 500 young people reported business improvement.

The UNCT-supported mine clearance programme enabled **57,157 people** (47 percent female) to safely access and use 34.25 km<sup>2</sup> mine-free land for community and livelihood development, generating an estimated \$2 million in income from agriculture in 2022.

## Hoping for a Positive Future!

### By Young Entrepreneur Association of Cambodia (YEAC) and UNDP

As Chief Executive Director of Seasonfresh (Cambodia) Co., Ltd, Chran Ponny oversees 13 permanent staff and around 200 labourers who support her business selling fresh and dried mangoes and Longan. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Ms. Ponny's business faced more challenges than others, with supply chain disruptions and staff reductions.

To keep her business afloat, despite the challenges, Ms. Ponny turned to online selling and other solutions. When she saw an announcement calling for applicants to join the "MSMEs Incubation Programme on Digitalization", implemented by the Young Entrepreneur Association of Cambodia, Ms. Ponny decided to try. Supported by UNDP Cambodia, in partnership with the Ministry of Commerce and Khmer Enterprise, the programme is a core initiative of Cambodia's e-commerce acceleration project (Go4eCAM) with a focus on skills and entrepreneurship for e-commerce (SME eBiznest), financed by the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) and the Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF).

Ms. Ponny was selected to join the programme and benefited from seven training modules with direct mentoring sessions and other events over the course of four months. As a result of her participation in the programme, she gained knowledge and skills in digital marketing, financial management, domestic and cross-border e-commerce, and exportation. Drawing on the skills she gained, she was able to increase the reach of her Facebook page by 300 percent and expected to increase exportation to China by up to 50–60 percent, helping increase her staffing from 200 to 400 workers. In addition, Ms. Ponny is collaborating with other incubees (Kulen Spices Enterprise, Misota Food Import Export Co., Ltd, Natural Food Store) to develop a business network for future cooperation and business expansion.

"This is a great intervention for MSMEs in Cambodia to survive their businesses and maintain their staff during this difficult time. More or less, it is contributing a lot to social improvement through job retraining. I think if my company keeps improving, more investment will come."



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## Outcome 3



## Promoting Sustainable Living



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The UNCT supported development or revision of several policies in 2022, including the **National Agricultural Development Policy (2022–2030)**, and helped **strengthen policy dialogues** (agriculture development and innovation, and food system, safety, security and nutrition).

UNCT support helped protect the livelihoods of over **1,000** poor and vulnerable households (33 percent women) in 2022, improving farmers' livelihoods and access to nutritious food via safe, nutrition-sensitive and climate-resilient agriculture, and improving their incomes via the sale of surplus production. With UNCT support, in partnership with local organizations and sub-national authorities, **14,890** people (6,916 women, 3,016 youth, 96 persons with disabilities) were empowered to lead 14 community forestry and 24 community protected area initiatives, leading to the **protection and sustainable management**

**of 14,427 hectares of community forestry areas** and 146,257 hectares of community protected forest areas. Communities living in or around the forests also benefited from incentives, services and support to limit their unsustainable use of natural resources: **1,388** households increased income via new agriculture practices; **1,641** households (targeting women) established 223 savings groups; **1,103** households gained access to clean water and **643** households benefited from renewable energy sources.

Access to safe drinking water, particularly in rural, climate-vulnerable communities, was supported via a low-cost, sustainable pilot for **Gravity-Driven Membrane (GDM) technology**. Students at three schools and **208 rural villagers** (116 women) near the schools now have access to sustainable and safe drinking water, with lessons learned to apply

to other rural climate-vulnerable villages. Another **23,181** people (4,313 poor) gained access to basic, safe, climate-resilient water supply, and the capacity and systems of government and private sector stakeholders were strengthened on climate-resilient water supply service delivery: a climate risk assessment was mainstreamed into water safety plan guidelines and capacity-building; water safety planning was conducted for 15 private piped water supply systems and five communes; and three private piped water supply systems were expanded. Additional support was provided for pro-poor household piped connection subsidies, climate proofing of two piped, and nine climate resilient reusable bottled drinking water systems, and Government support resulted in a field test of the Prakas for implementation of poor household piped connections.

Also in 2022, three provinces were declared **Open Defecation Free**, benefiting over **2.8 million people**. **Sanitation finance-based approaches** were developed and applied in six additional target provinces, resulting in **139,749** people (121,581 women and children) gaining access to basic sanitation services. Climate-resilient sanitation options were applied in disaster-prone areas, enabling **3,504** people (2,705 IDPoor) access to climate-adapted, safely managed sanitation services. Hand hygiene messages were distributed via community engagement and social media, and hand hygiene supplies were delivered to 0.7 million IDPoor family members and factory workers.

Capacity-building support for climate-resilient livelihoods benefited 108 women directly and 400 indirectly, including via implementation of **renewable energy** practices (solar powered irrigation for horticulture/agriculture, drying, chicken incubation, drinking water, cold storage, aqua culture, herbal processing, sawdust pellet making, and the **sale of renewable energy technology**). An additional 2,030 people (1,020 women) in five off-grid communities in Ratanakiri province gained access to clean energy via solar mini-grids, and ~5,000 farmers gained access to a reliable water supply for irrigation and subsistence farming via solar water pumps. Sustainable cooling was supported via development of the **National Cooling Action Plan**, which integrates energy efficiency, refrigerant transition, access to cooling and climate change strategies, and **Passive Cooling Strategies for sustainable development in**

**Cambodia**, which aims to support the Government to implement passive cooling solutions in the building sector via a review of the sector, assessment of passive cooling strategies, modelling and technical guidance on passive cooling in a demonstration building, and modelling of potential energy and greenhouse gas savings. The UNCT also supported: a Government-led study on its policy for rooftop solar PV promotion to reduce gaps, leading to a ministerial regulation aiming to increase **investments in rooftop solar**; a whitepaper on **Energy Saving Companies** to support implementation of the **National Energy Efficiency Policy** and promote partnerships with energy service companies on energy efficiency; and a **roadmap for electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure**.

UNCT built the capacity of the Government with respect to **modern technology** (an open-source monitoring system [System for Earth Observation Data Access, Processing and Analysis for Land Monitoring]) **for sustainable forest management, development of agricultural land use maps**, and monitoring and reporting on forests and land use. In partnership with Sylva Carbon, a model for high-resolution agricultural land use maps was developed **using Machine Learning with a Neural Network Approach (AI)** to improve data collection and interpretation of agricultural land use data, which is critical data for policy and strategic decision-making.

To monitor Cambodia's progress against its commitments to a **low carbon, resilient society**, the UNCT supported the Government's first annual report on the **Nationally Determined Contributions**, development of an online tracking system, and support for transparent and regular reporting.

**Fisheries Conservation and Management** were supported with efforts to improve ecosystem protection, restoration and conservation, upgraded information management systems, improved reporting on illegal and unregulated fishing, improved community fishery mechanisms and the management of the **Tonle Sap Biosphere Reserve**.

Air pollution is significant, with risks to the entire population and worsening conditions due to fuel-intensive vehicles and other factors. In 2022, the

Government launched its **first Clean Air Plan**, which aims to **reduce PM2.5 by 60 percent**.

To strengthen the enabling environment for the **circular economy**, a UNCT-supported sub-decree on plastic management was adopted, introducing vital measures (ban on some single-use plastic items), and an Extended Producer Responsibility scheme (to mobilize plastics producers/importers to be responsible for waste collection and recycling) was rolled out through a public-private partnership.

With UNCT support, the National Committee for Disaster Management reviewed, updated and disseminated **national and provincial contingency plans** for floods and conducted flood disaster response exercises in relevant provinces to test local

preparation and response capacity. Support for a web-based **Platform for Real-time Impact and Situation Monitoring** will support rapid assessment of climate hazard risks and impacts to inform disaster risk management and social protection.

Sub-national and national authorities gained awareness of the **human rights situation of communities living in situations of vulnerability** (indigenous people, ethnic minorities, etc.) in line with the principle to Leave No one Behind (LNOB). In addition to other measures, advocacy and technical support were provided to governmental and non-governmental representatives on issues related to the communal land title-process for indigenous people.

### Vulnerable Households Avert Hunger Amid the Pandemic with Short Cycle Agricultural Production

Ot Saven, a 38-year-old woman from Romdeng village in Siem Reap province lost her job as a construction worker in 2022. As her household's primary provider, this loss was devastating for her family. Despite living with a chronic illness, her husband, Ham Sokleang, also worked in construction. As they both woke up daily at 3 a.m. and returned home late, due to the travel required to and from their jobs, they could not sustain employment during the lockdown and worried that they would not be able to provide for their family. "It was a very difficult job for me and my sick husband. We do not have even a single plot for rice farming. We cannot be feeling relief when we do not have rice stock," Saven said and added that, "during the lockdown period, I had to borrow some kilograms of rice from my cousin".

Funding from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation allowed the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO), the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), and local partners to implement a project to help vulnerable families, like the Saven family, meet their nutritional needs. With support from the Provincial Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, the project trained farmers to practice safe, nutrition-sensitive and climate-resilient agriculture with an emphasis on short-cycle agricultural production (vegetables, chicken, fish, frog). In addition, vulnerable households received cash support to purchase agricultural inputs and basic assets to produce vegetables and to raise fish, frogs and chickens.

Saven received \$330, which she used to start vegetable production on ~ 450 square meters behind her home, noting that: "My family consumes half of the vegetables I produce, and I sell the surplus to a local middleman. Some nearby villagers also buy my vegetables. For this, I am very content that I can generate a small income daily." Saven earned 430,000 Riel (\$107.5) from the first cycle of her vegetable production following her family's consumption, motivating her to grow vegetables as a business, and she has expanded from cultivating yardlong bean, eggplant, morning glory, and choy sum to other vegetables (corn, cucumber). "As a woman, I find cultivating vegetables at home is easy. The support from the project allowed me to install a water system that saves me time and labour. I applied the techniques I learned from the trainings, such as preparing land and intercropping method, which allow me to receive double yield." Smiling brightly, Saven adds: "I am not skinny as when I was a construction worker. I am very content that myself is healthier (gaining weight) and I have more time with my kids. I will continue my vegetable growing business and stop working as a construction worker."

Saven also received close to \$80 under the project's first cash-for-work activity, to rehabilitate a tertiary canal in her commune, allowing her to cover the cost of medication for her husband. As an IDPoor household, Saven's family also benefits from the Government's cash transfer programme. The cash her family receives, combined with the project support, has enabled her family to endure the lasting impacts of the pandemic.

From the same village, Seap Sak, 48 years old, is a person with disability who primarily relies on remittances from his children, who are migrant workers in Thailand, to support the six members of his family. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, however, Mr. Sak's children were unable to retain their employment and, thus, could not continue sending money home. As a recipient of the Government's cash transfer programme, which supports families with IDPoor cards, Mr. Sak was able to meet his family's immediate needs and pay their monthly loan. Prior to receiving the project support, Mr. Sak acknowledged that he had reduced his daily nutritional intake to ensure that the small children in his family could eat.

Mr. Sak decided to raise catfish with the support of the project: "After two months and 15 days, I could harvest the fish. I've kept the fish for my family consumption, and my wife has prepared yummy meals with fish several times a week. It did reduce our spending on food," said Sak. He also added that, "all of our family members like its taste. Some of our villagers also like it after having tried the fish."

The project supported 1,000 vulnerable households, like Sak and Saven, between January 2021 and July 2022 in Siem Reap and Banteay Meanchey provinces, and provided complementary interventions (productive assets, inputs, technical training, extension services) to the Government cash transfer programme to protect the livelihoods of poor, vulnerable households during the pandemic while strengthening their productive capacities to withstand future shocks.



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## Outcome 4



## Strengthening Participation and Accountability



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The UNCT **promoted and protected civic space**, strengthening monitoring activities, building public recognition of the role of participation, and strengthening capacity in collaboration with civic space actors, journalists, community activists, and human rights defenders. The UNCT helped foster a **safe space for dialogue** to strengthen the legislative framework and programmes and guarantee freedom of expression and access to information, via high-level forums, dialogues and the National Media Development Conference, bringing together civil society, media and line ministries for the first time.

In line with the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists, a **media support desk** was created to support the safety of journalists and provide legal assistance to reporters and human rights defenders. A media development and freedom of expression

working group and a CSO coalition were created, and the UNCT **built the capacities of key ministries on human rights standards** for legislation related to freedom of expression and access to information.

The My Journey app and targeted campaigns reached 1,726 people on the rights of **women migrants**, safe migration, and services related to GBV. The UNCT also built the capacity of **252 local service providers** (Migrant Resource Centres, employers, trade unions) on fair recruitment practices, labour migration governance framework, policy, and international labour standards. The UNCT supported the Government to develop the 2023–2025 **National Action Plan** to implement the 2017 Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Consensus on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers, contributed to the ASEAN Declaration on

portability of social security benefits for migrant workers, and helped develop a policy brief on the complaints mechanism for migrant workers.

The UNCT supported the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) on the **Criminal Case Database**, which tracks case progression through the justice system to increase transparency and efficiency and avoid lengthy pre-trial detention and delayed release. As of 2022, **17 courts of first instance** and all courts of appeal were connected to a central server.

The UNCT built the capacities of **118 authorities** (judges, prosecutors, judicial police officers, lawyers) in 2022 on international cooperation in criminal matters, particularly anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing investigations and prosecutions. A study tour to Japan benefited **14 officials**, strengthening their knowledge of community-based treatment and the parole system. In line with the **National Commitments to the Nairobi Summit** (ICPD25) and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) Youth Accelerator, a mobile app was established to educate youth on **comprehensive sexuality education, reaching 7,773 people** (3,147 young people) as of the end of 2022.

In 2022, the UN built the technical capacity of law enforcement agencies on prevention, investigation and prosecution of cybercrime, cryptocurrency offenses, online child sexual exploitation and on digital forensics and evidence, reaching **96** investigators, prosecutors and financial intelligence analysts in 2022. Meetings (National Cybercrime Roundtable Discussion, Southeast Asia Cryptocurrencies Working Group) raised awareness and built synergies to counter cybercrime. The UNCT also mentored and strengthened the capacity of **over 200 criminal justice actors to address wildlife and forest crime**.

To improve the **prevention of human trafficking**, the UNCT organized a National Forum in Phnom Penh, reaching 50 participants (Secretary of State, Ministry of Interior and Permanent Vice-Chair of the National Committee for Counter Trafficking in Persons, youth representatives, women migrant workers, civil society, human trafficking experts, tech companies, media) on the risks of online recruitment via social media and other forms. The **Provincial Committee for Counter Trafficking-in-Persons** received UNCT

support to strengthen the capacities of **86 labour and governmental officials** on fair recruitment practices, the national regulatory framework on fair and ethical recruitment, Government sub-decree 190, ministerial orders, labour migration policy, and the Code of Conduct for recruitment agencies, resulting in an action plan for the Labour Migration Policy and the provincial action plan on migration and trafficking in persons.

The UNCT supported development and implementation of policies, strategies, frameworks and action plans: **National Action Plan on Cambodian Youth Development** (2022–2026); **National Action Plan on School Health** (2021–2030); **Monitoring and Evaluation Framework** for the National Action Plan on Cambodia Youth Development 2022–2026; **Standard Operational Procedures on School Health Promotion 2022**; **Out of School Comprehensive Sexuality Education Strategic Plan 2022–2026**; health, education and comprehensive sexuality education textbooks and training manual for pre-service students; **gender mainstreaming strategic plan for the mine, energy, and oil sector**; **Media, Information and Literacy Competency framework** for the National Digital Economy and Society Framework. In accordance with international human rights norms and standards, the UNCT also supported: **Draft law on the establishment of a National Human Rights Institution**; draft law on the establishment of a National Committee against Torture; Law on Associations and Non-Governmental Organizations; Amendment of the Press Law; draft law on Cybersecurity; and draft law on Privacy and Data Protection.

With UNCT support, the Government endorsed a **roadmap for gender-responsive budgeting** to be implemented in 2023 with the aim to advance gender equality and women's socio-economic inclusion.

In line with international human rights law and the LNOB principle, the UNCT actively promoted the rights of **persons with disabilities** and their access to justice and collaborated closely with the Disability Action Council under the United Nations Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The UNCT supported the Government to draft a **child protection law** to address urgent recommendations issued by

the Committee on the Rights of the Child in June 2022 (e.g. on corporal punishment) and supported the Cambodia National Council for Children to coordinate with line ministries on the implementation and monitoring of the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child. Implementation of the Juvenile Justice Law in 2022 resulted in 24 children (9 girls) diverted and 360 children granted other non-custodial measures, out of 2,143 **children in conflict with the law**, demonstrating the commitment of the justice sector to implement the law and uphold the rights of children in conflict with the law in line with international standards.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training, the Garment Manufacturers' Association in Cambodia, and garment sector unions, the UNCT conducted **social compliance assessments in 466 factories** exporting garment, footwear and travel goods. In addition, the UNCT provided technical advice to 250 factories and their worker-management committees to improve non-compliance in their facilities.

Technical and financial support provided by the UNCT for the development and implementation of legal and policy frameworks, capacity-building of government and CSO stakeholders, and awareness campaigns helped reduce the proportion of **women and girls** (aged 15–49 years) who experienced physical, sexual and/or emotional violence by their intimate partners in the previous 12 months (19.6 percent [2014], 13 percent [2021]). The UNCT **strengthened GBV response mechanisms**, setting up safe spaces for survivors and developing the capacity of service providers; 60 government service providers (36 female) were trained and participated in discussions on violence against women migrants and supported to deliver coordinated services and manage cases on women migrant workers (case registration form, violence against women data). The UNCT supported the Government's capacity to mobilize and coach GBV technical working group members to contribute to implementation of the third National Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against Women (NAPVAW) through development of **Annual Operation Plans**, 18 of which were developed in 2022 (12 by line ministries/institutions) with an estimated budget allocation of around \$1.3 million. With UNCT support, **health facilities are able to provide health sector response**

to GBV survivors: By the end of 2022, 44.50 percent (eight referral hospitals out of 18 target facilities) in eight priority provinces were able to provide health sector response to GBV/violence against women. The **capacity of service providers and stakeholders** at the national and sub-national levels to respond to the needs of women and girl survivors and vulnerable women was enhanced, enabling 322 cases (104 domestic violence, 218 rape) to be assisted and access counselling and legal services in 2022. Also with UNCT support, the Ministry of Women's Affairs and a local non-governmental organization (NGO), Child Helpline Cambodia, provide **counselling and referrals via helplines**: 144 of 146 cases reported via the helpline in 2022 were GBV. In partnership with another local NGO, Transcultural Psychosocial Organization and Child Helpline Cambodia, 16,300 children (8,002 girls), 419 gender-undisclosed children, and 13,478 youth and adults (6,657 females) received professional counseling and services.

To raise awareness on **gender, GBV and harassment in the workplace**, the UNCT disseminated information on the Gender Based Violence and Harassment guidelines in the garment sector and provided capacity-building support to key government counterparts to raise awareness on GBV and harassment. Social and mass media public awareness and community outreach campaigns promoted a positive attitude towards female migrant workers and raised awareness on safe migration, including risks of trafficking and violence against migrant workers, reaching **538,739** social media audiences and **1,436** community members. The UNCT-supported **16 Days of Activism against GBV Campaign** increased awareness of GBV and services available, reaching **~7,150** people, while live-streaming on Facebook pages reached over 12,000 people, and 10 events held in four provinces reached 1,728 people (988 females). The UNCT also launched a **six-month public information campaign** to inform community members of police services available to GBV victims in Phnom Penh, led a two-week training on GBV for police officers and other stakeholders, and provided two victim-friendly facilities and equipment. A campaign poster promoting the 1288 hotline received 5,300 likes and 59 shares, and its launch was

discussed in 16 media outlets (TV channels, newspaper articles, online news outlets) with the campaign estimated to have had **over 26 million online impressions**.

The UNCT built capacity of the Ministry of Health on the **violence against children and sexual abuse Clinical Handbook**; 126 health practitioners (85 female) were trained on the referral pathway and care provision, which resulted in 207 children who had experienced violence and abuse receiving support. The UNCT also supported the Bar Association of the Kingdom of Cambodia<sup>18</sup> and provincial courts to train 115 lawyers (55 females), judges and prosecutors on child-friendly legal aid services, and 309 children (46 girls) in contact with the law received legal aid services from trained lawyers, judges and prosecutors. The UNCT also built the capacity of **2,915 social service workers** (over 50 percent female) through training, mentoring and coaching on case management and referral. The needs of **15,987** children who experienced violence were addressed, and the UNCT worked with MoSVY and Friends International to support and coach district social workers through joint case collaboration and co-case management in 27 target districts, benefiting

around 1,500 children and youth (790 female).

The UNCT supported the National Institute of Statistics (NIS) and line ministries to improve data collection and use and to better link it to planning and budgeting processes via implementation of the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics and SDG monitoring and reporting (**national census, inter-census, Cambodia Socio-Economic Survey, Agriculture Survey, Cambodia Demographic and Health Survey**), and establishment of the **National Development/SDGs Indicators Reporting Platform/Data Exchange** (CAMSTAT) with a Cambodia Sustainable Development Goal (**CSDG**)/SDG tracking portal. The UNCT coordinated stakeholders to provide technical support and build government capacity to produce in-depth data analyses of the 2019 census. The UNCT also **supported alternative data solutions focusing on “big data”**, helping NIS use “big data” to measure the nexus between gender and environment and helping MOWA to use “big data” for a study on violence against women trends and help-seeking behaviour.

## Hotlines Help Victims of Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Find Their Voice

By Lloyd Cristyn Elisabeth

In 2020, 17-year-old high school student Sothy\* and grade 11 student Thyda\* each received Facebook friend requests from profiles they did not recognise. They were studying online at the time and, like young people around the world whose schools were closed due to the pandemic, they were spending increasing time on the Internet. They accepted the requests and exchanged a few friendly messages. Sothy felt she got on well with Dara\*, so she agreed to make their relationship official despite her initial hesitations and even though they had never met offline. Thyda and Phearun\* also quickly became close, chatting online for about a month. When Sothy and Thyda ended their relationships with “Dara” and “Phearun”, the men became angry, and heated arguments ensued before Thyda and Sothy cut off contact completely. Yet, this was just the beginning.

Thyda and Phearun continued to message the girls under different Facebook profiles, threatening to sue the girls for insulting language they had used when asked to film and send naked videos of themselves. Promised the videos would not be shared publicly, they reluctantly agreed, terrified of what would happen if they did not do as they were asked. They tried to block subsequent accounts, desperate not to be contacted again, but new profiles kept appearing with more demands for videos.

When Thyda refused to send more, a screenshot from a previous video was shared on Facebook and in a Telegram group with around 30,000 members. When Sothy stopped, her photo was also shared on social media. “At first I was desperate and thought nobody could help me,” recounted Sothy. “I was extremely scared when thinking about telling someone about it, including my parents.”

<sup>18</sup> BAKC brings together all practicing lawyers. Its Legal Aid Department (LAD) offers attorney representation to low-income clients.

Sothy contacted a reporting hotline run by UNICEF’s partner, Action Pour Les Enfants (APLE), after seeing a video on their Facebook page. After receiving Sothy’s account of what happened, APLE provided her with legal advice and connected her with social workers, who stressed that her decision to seek help was the right one. Encouraged by the trust she built with the case workers, she agreed to tell her parents. They were angry at first but came to understand that Sothy was not at fault and filed a complaint with the Anti-Human Trafficking and Juvenile Protection police in Siem Reap. Sothy was referred to a specialized NGO to receive longer-term psychosocial support. “I decided to report my abuse to the APLE hotline because I felt confident when talking to the hotline staff about my concerns,” said Sothy. “Knowing that my case is being investigated by police, I have hope that justice will be served.”

“[B]oth survivors were severely traumatised, fearing their abusers would distribute their images online,” said Him Sophorn, the social worker assigned to their cases. “They were hesitant to tell anybody about the abuse. It was haunting. ... After several counselling sessions, they became more confident and started to interact with services. [Once] aware of legal action taken against the abuser, it made them less scared and gave them courage to speak more.”

Legal counselling and support led Thyda to speak with the Anti-Human Trafficking and Juvenile Protection police, who worked with the provincial court to pursue the investigation against Phearun, Thyda’s abuser. He was eventually sentenced to 2.5 years in prison. “I felt safe after my abuser was brought behind bars,” said Thyda. “He could not threaten me anymore and I could live my life as normal.”

Like Sothy, social workers also coordinated Thyda’s referral with one of their partners to receive longer-term psychological support and counselling. “The support I have received has helped me recover from the horrible suffering and nightmares. I only hope that my images will not appear on the Internet again. I hope that people who have received my videos will delete them from their device and will not share them any further.”

While police are still pursuing the offender in Sothy’s case, a charge related to the child sexual abuse materials has reached the investigative judge, APLE continues to provide legal aid services, and Sothy feels more confident now, knowing how to protect herself online: “I think I made the right decision to report my concerns because not only is my abuser being dealt with by police, but I’m also receiving appropriate psychological support to cope with my trauma,” she said. “I am confident that I can block someone who threatens me.”

\*Names have been changed to protect the people involved.



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## Outcome 5



## Managing Urbanisation



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Capacity development and coaching on sub-national planning and budgeting for social services benefited children, adolescents and women in all 25 capital and provincial administrations. With UNCT support, the **Social Service Implementation Manual for Urban Setting** provided guidance in implementing social services more effectively and equitably.

The UNCT supported skills training, job matching and the Recognition of Prior Learning, helping improve the **employability of migrants and vulnerable groups** in urban areas. Supporting the National Employment Agency, the UNCT raised awareness of **job opportunities** for job seekers, especially returning migrant workers (e.g. on job-matching platforms) in collaboration with job centres, TVET skill providers and local authorities, reaching 1,019 participants (502 female). The UNCT promoted **improved working conditions for migrants** via labour rights training

activities and fair recruitment practices in partnership with the Association of Cambodian Recruitment Agencies and the Manpower Association of Cambodia, in line with the Cambodia Code of Conduct for Private Recruitment Agencies.

Migrants, including 2,470 prospective migrant workers and returnees, received counseling services via **Migrant Resource Centres** in Battambang, Kampong Cham, Prey Veng and Kampot. As part of the COVID-19 response, the UNCT supported the Government to provide prevention and **vaccination services** to migrants, mobile workers, urban poor and other vulnerable groups left behind in hard-to-reach urban communities and border areas, resulting in the vaccination of 7,100 people who had missed or had incomplete vaccination doses in 2022. The UNCT helped the Government develop a **National Strategic Plan for Migrant Health** (2022–2030), which targets

the most vulnerable, including those in urban areas, and contributes to the LNOB principle.

With UNCT support, **HIV prevention, testing and services** reached 51,442 female entertainment workers, men who have sex with men, transgender women and people who inject drugs (January–November 2022). Prevention services in three key provinces (Phnom Penh, Battambang, Siem Reap) resulted in 87 percent of key populations being tested for HIV and over 99 percent of 1,231 confirmed HIV positive individuals being enrolled in HIV treatment programmes. Multi-month dispensing of antiretroviral therapy resulted in 76.7 percent national coverage by September 2022. With UNCT support, HIV testing and bio-medical prevention approaches were rolled out and scaled up: Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis was scaled up to 21 sites in 11 provinces, reaching and enrolling 7,211 people by December 2022, 80 percent of whom accessed it in the three key provinces.

In 2022, the UNCT developed the “Guideline on Public Participation Promotion on Wastewater Management Services at the Sub-national Level” and built the capacities of sub-national administrations and relevant stakeholders to promote **public participation** in the management of **sewerage and wastewater treatment systems**, contributing to infrastructure development, urbanization, and sustainable national economic development. The UNCT also supported capacity-building and awareness-raising on solid

waste and resilient house construction techniques in the urban communities of Kep and Preah Sihanouk Provinces, green-building in poor urban communities in Sihanoukville, where 186 households (881 people) received cooking stoves, home solar and fan solar, and 10,000 people, especially children and women, benefited from street solar and solid waste management support (community clean-up, waste receptacles).

The UNCT supported the recovery of the **heritage and tourism sectors** in Siem Reap, via cash-for-work schemes for the communities living in Angkor and training opportunities for tourism professionals, to adopt sustainable approaches for stronger, more resilient businesses. The UNCT supported **disaster risk preparedness** in Angkor, identifying risks to the World Heritage property and developing a Resilience Plan to protect the site and support the socio-economic livelihoods of local communities.

The UNCT coordinated discussions with the inter-ministerial committee, sub-national governments, and development partners on smart cities and urban development to contribute to the draft National Smart Cities Roadmap, emphasising the LNOB and other people-centred principles. The UNCT continued monitoring and documenting the situation of communities living in resettlement sites and people facing eviction (right to adequate housing) and other rights violations.



## Evaluations and Lessons Learned

The UNCT commissioned an independent team to evaluate the UNDAF 2019–2023, which aims to: provide a transparent, participatory platform for learning and dialogue with stakeholders about progress made towards agreed outcomes, and measures to strengthen programming and results at the country level; inform planning and decision-making for the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) (2024–2028); improve UNCT coordination at the country level; and offer greater accountability of the UNCT to stakeholders.

The evaluation showed that the **strategic priorities were well aligned with key national policies and priorities** (National Strategic Development Plan [2019–2023], CSDGs 2016–2030). **UNDAF implementation demonstrated UNCT resilience, responsiveness and strategy**, addressing emerging and emergency needs, while also eliciting effective UNCT collaboration under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator.

The contributions of the UNCT have led to progress towards the national objectives and CSDGs across all five UNDAF outcomes. UNDAF implementation has contributed to major institutional and legislative changes, minimised disruptions in access to health/education services and sustained livelihoods, and increased competitiveness, innovation and a green, inclusive economy. However, additional efforts are required, including collaboration between all strategic actors at the levels of the Government, UNCT and other stakeholders, integration of industry, agriculture, environment and climate change, and sustainable urban development, further support for implementation of legal and strategic frameworks, and funding, notably in areas such as urbanization and access to services.

The UNCT prioritised activities based on needs rather than availability of resources, and reallocated resources as new needs arose. **Limited funding and competing agency priorities have hampered a systematic, integrated approach to development.**

**A financing or resource mobilization strategy, alongside an integrated funding framework**, are needed to incentivise joint programming and leverage work under joint programmes to maximise outcomes.

Gaps were identified, as well as challenges in the strategic and coordinated engagement between partners. For example, CSOs cited a lack of adequate support from UN agencies, particularly with respect to human rights.

The Results Groups require additional resources to be fully effective. Although the UNCT strengthened its coordination via 11 joint programmes, a significant improvement from previous UNDAF cycles, more resources and evidence are needed to support effective partnerships and ensure maximum cooperation and synergy between agencies. The UNSDCF must be designed to **ensure ownership and engagement by national counterparts**, building cooperation with the Government not only at the Resident Coordinator level but also the Results Group level. **Alignment of the UNSDCF strategic priorities with national objectives** and their continuous harmonisation at higher policy/sectoral levels ensure some government ownership and investment in desired outcomes, as is vital for sustainability. However, time and resources are critical to ensure long-term sustainability.

The UNCT should **intensify its convening and capacitating role** for rights-holders and their representatives to ensure **civic space and accountability**. The UNDAF/UNSDCF has helped mainstream the human rights-based approach. With respect to the UNCT Human Rights Strategy, human rights markers, data and indicators have been established, and key observations and recommendations of the Universal Periodic Review and human rights mechanisms have been pursued.

The Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment principle was mainstreamed into the UNSDCF, supported by the Gender Equality Scorecard Exercise, which found 45.5 percent of indicators to be gender-sensitive with three (of six) joint programmes already mainstreaming gender and monitoring progress towards gender equality and women's empowerment. The participation of CSOs and women's rights advocates were promoted through joint initiatives, the Common Country Analysis (CCA) process, high-level



visits and events, awareness-raising campaigns, and UNCT programmes. However, the Gender Thematic Group requires dedicated financial resources to carry out its annual work plan, as it relies on agencies' in-kind contributions, the majority of which are supported by the Resident Coordinator's Office.

### Recommendations:

1. Base the next UNSDCF on the new guidelines to improve its design, conception and usefulness and to capture a shared vision and mission in the context of the SDGs.
2. Encourage and enhance government participation in the strategic management of the next UNSDCF.
3. Develop partnership strategies to ensure the deliberate, systematic engagement of CSOs, the private sector, academia and development partners towards achievement of the UNSDCF.
4. Capitalise on the unique expertise and resources of implementing UN agencies to strengthen joint programming and reduce duplication of efforts.
5. Strengthen strategic positioning by designing the UNSDCF to foster integration across sectors.
6. Increase cooperation across the Results and Thematic Groups to help the UNCT strategically manage the UNSDCF, with the Resident Coordinator/UNCT leadership.
7. Increase the mainstreaming of the LNOB principle and the human rights-based approach.
8. Increase the mainstreaming of gender equality and women's empowerment.
9. Consider creating an integrated funding framework in the next UNSDCF, with adequate funding instruments, to ensure the scale of impact necessary for attaining the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda).

## Support to Partnerships and Financing the 2030 Agenda

The 2030 Agenda emphasises partnerships as a critical vehicle to advance the 2030 Agenda and its 17 SDGs. At the country level, multi-stakeholder partnerships were forged through individual and joint UNCT programmes in 2022. The UNCT supported the Government by creating multi-stakeholder platforms for engagement, supporting strategy development and planning, and providing technical expertise and capacity-building support.

In 2022, together with the **MoSVY**, the UNCT launched the **Cambodia Futures Lab**, a six-month learning journey to co-create pathways for a prosperous, inclusive, and innovative Cambodia through a whole-of-government, whole-of-society approach. The Cambodia Futures Lab strengthened leadership, strategic foresight and systems-thinking capabilities in leaders across all sectors and created opportunities for cross-sector collaboration and experimentation among leaders in Government, the private sector and civil society.

The UNCT implemented **10 joint programmes**, with a budget of over \$13 million in 2022. Through the Joint Programme for Social Protection, the UNCT supported the Government to strengthen its social protection system, including implementation of the National Social Protection Policy Framework 2016–2025, and the convening of policymakers and key stakeholders for Social Policy Week.

In response to the impacts of the 5F crisis (food, feed, fuel, fertiliser and finance) on the Cambodian economy, particularly in the agricultural sector and among the poorest and most vulnerable community members, the UNCT strengthened national capacity and supported response measures. Tools for data collection, analysis and forecasting were strengthened, with an emphasis on macro and socio-economic variables, agricultural production, food prices and markets and household livelihoods, food security and nutrition. Support was provided to improve policy responses and to use a limited national budget to support recovery and social assistance measures for the most vulnerable.

The UNCT supported the Integrated **National Financing Framework**, providing technical support to the regulatory framework governing SDG financing. As a result, government planning has become more responsive to catalyse blended financing in support of the 2030 Agenda by identifying investment opportunities in priority sectors with strong financial viability and potential to scale-up impact for development. Under this partnership, a Credit Guarantee Scheme was rolled out to facilitate access to loan financing for women-owned businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Partnerships with the **private sector** and the **Government** remain central to the success of BEEP and FLP. For FLP, a partnership with the Textile, Apparel, Footwear and Travel Goods Association in Cambodia and Cambodian Garment Training Institute helped leverage the association's network of factories to promote participation in the programme. The UNCT mobilized support from the private sector for FLP implementation, with garment factories providing in-kind and financial support (learning spaces for literacy classes, paid wages for time in classes).

The UNCT signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Credit Guarantee Corporate Cambodia** to financially support the biogas technology and information centre, with a test project receiving a loan under the MoU. With **Khmer Enterprise**, the UNCT established a national incubation centre on IDEA app, an entrepreneurship incubation platform and, with the Ministry of Industry, Science, Technology and Innovation (**MISTI**), promoted food safety for improved market access. To promote business formalising, financing and marketing, the UNCT utilised government services, including the **Techo Startup Center** for online business registration, Ministry of Commerce (**MoC**) for e-commerce, Skill

Development Fund for SMEs, and Ministry of Industry, Science, Technology and Innovation (**MISTI**) on food safety and standards. The **Cambodia Microfinance Association** supported new businesses and SMEs to better access finance.

Policy discussions were held with **development partners** to address the growing challenges of sustainable financing to advance the **2030 Agenda**. This included the European Union-UN Dialogue concentrating on New Frontiers for Sustainable Development in Cambodia. The event included discussion on the progress made towards achievement of the 2030 Agenda in Cambodia, analysis of global trends in sustainable financing, and ways to leverage investments for sustainable development in Cambodia.

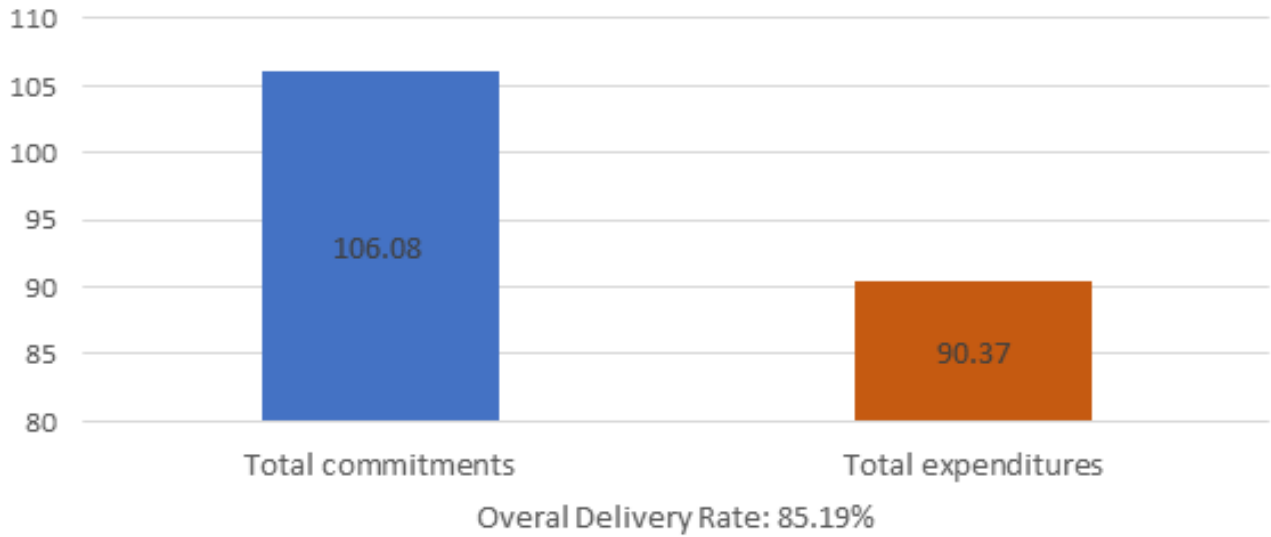
The **Development Partners Forum** is a key forum for coordination and partnership between development partners in Cambodia. To make the forum more strategic, the process of restructuring it commenced in 2022. Technical Working Groups facilitate aid coordination activities within various sectors (public financial management, health, social protection, food security, nutrition, gender).

The **Humanitarian Response Forum**, which focuses on emergency preparedness and humanitarian response to hazards, ensures smooth coordination and communication between the UNCT, international NGOs and other organizations. In July 2022, the forum organized a Foresight Exercise, including: a Horizon Scanning online survey of forum members to collect inputs on future risks in Cambodia; two workshops (on the Future Risk Landscape and on Preparedness for Future Risks); and a set of recommendations for the forum's contingency plan.

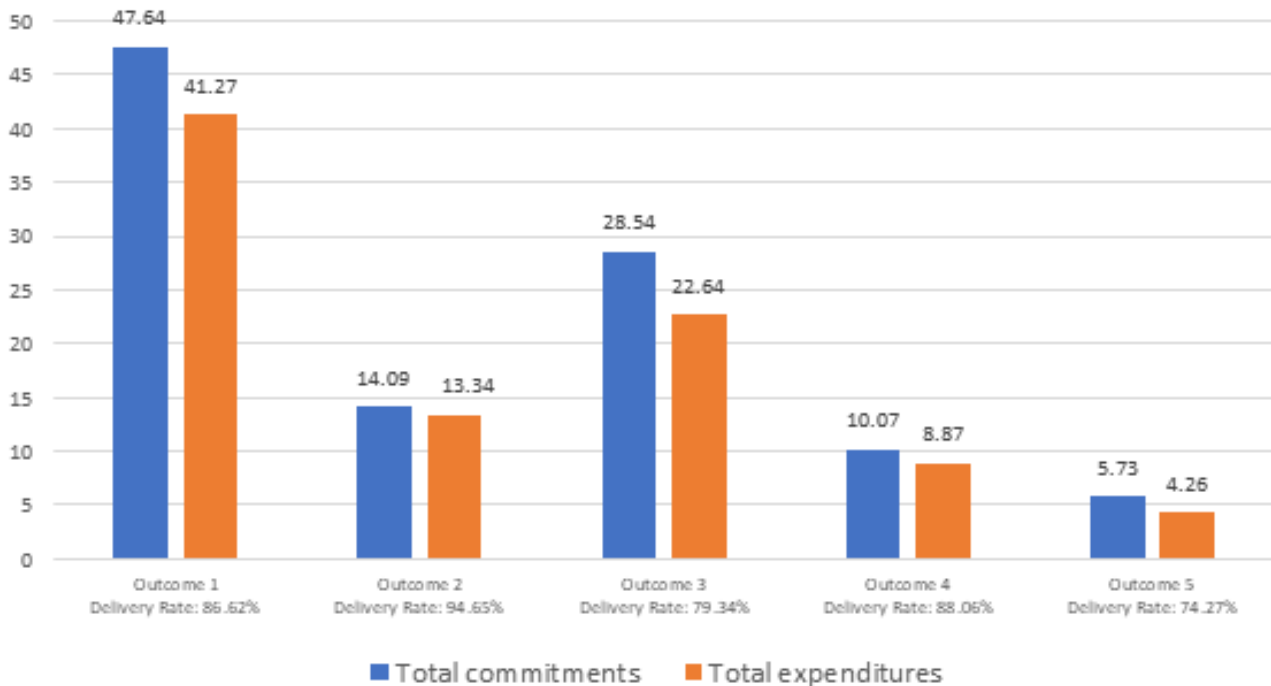


## Financial Overview and Resource Mobilization

**All Outcomes**  
Commitments and Expenditures (Million US\$) in 2022



**Expenditures and Commitments (Million US\$) by Outcome in 2022**



## Chapter 3: United Nations Country Team Strategic Focus for 2023

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## Outcome 1



## Expanding Social Opportunity



### Health

In 2023, the UNCT will strive to partner more closely with the private sector in health, including with respect to Universal Health Coverage. Inter-sector country cooperation will be strengthened on health security and antimicrobial resistance, and on preparedness, response and resilience to public health threats. Emphasis on people-centred continuous care, particularly primary care (including communities), will draw on UN-supported successes and shortcomings, seek to address the social determinants of health, and promote equitable access to health services by addressing legal, policy, structural barriers and by enhancing civic space and the engagement of the community, including vulnerable and left behind populations. To enhance equity in health, emphasis will be placed on financial protection and the use of disaggregated data and information to better reach those most at risk of being left behind.



### Education

In response to the lasting impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on education, the UNCT will prioritise continued collaboration with the Government and relevant stakeholders to develop a new Education Strategic Plan 2024–2028 and build the capacity of teachers throughout Cambodia. The new Education Strategic Plan 2024–2028 will be based on the SDG4 Mid-term Review and Cambodia's National Statement of Commitment at the Transforming Education Summit. In addition, relevant policy documents will be finalised, including the Cambodia Digital Education Strategy, the National Action Plan on Inclusive Education 2024–2028 and the Teacher Policy Action Plan 2023–2030.

With respect to teacher development, the UNCT will support the MoEYS by building upon and progressively rolling out the national continuous professional development and Human Resource Management Information System (HRMIS) including increasing

the supply of continuous professional development providers and offerings, strengthening the system capabilities and addressing interoperability with other information systems, and enhancing data for improved educational planning and management. Continued teacher development will be prioritised with respect to the Teacher Policy Action Plan 2023–2030 and will include development of a credit-based, pre-service, teacher training curriculum alongside the finalisation and delivery of 11 blended, in-service training courses for teacher educators.

The MoEYS will be supported to improve the quality of primary education by scaling up implementation of the national early grade learning programme, including via early grade learning materials packages, teacher training, and strengthened mentorship programme, effective professional support for teachers, and a national continuous performance-based classroom assessment system to better identify and meet the learning needs of students and to ensure comprehensive sexuality education through the school health programme.



### Nutrition

National and sub-national capacities will be enhanced to deliver effective nutrition-specific interventions, including preventing and treating child wasting, promoting maternal nutrition and addressing overweight and obesity. Child wasting will be addressed by promoting positive infant and young child feeding practices, supporting frontline health workers (health centre staff, village health support groups), and updating the national guidelines on the management of acute malnutrition. Maternal nutrition will be supported alongside the reduction of low birth weight, with the aim to break the intergenerational cycle of malnutrition. Interventions to address overweight and obesity will be promoted in the new Fast Track Roadmap for Improving Nutrition, to reduce future risk of NCDs in response to the increasing prevalence of overweight/obesity in children under five.

Social behavior change interventions and targeted value chain support for nutritious commodities (e.g. fortified rice) will support healthy diets and positive nutrition practices. Nutrition-sensitive social protection (e.g. cash transfers for persons living with HIV and children under-two from vulnerable households) will be supported.



## Social Protection and Assistance

The Social Protection Policy, legislation and programme will be supported in the areas of social assistance, social security and social health protection. Emphasis will be on integration, expansion and coverage across the life-cycle and in response to shocks, in both social assistance and social

security within the context of economic recovery, formalisation processes and development of the new National Social Protection Policy Framework. The LNOB principle, human rights-based approach and gender equality will be priorities and encompass a focus on child- and gender-sensitive social protection, disability inclusion and family-friendly policies, in line with the UNCT-commissioned LNOB study.

The UNCT will continue supporting system strengthening, including via the digitalization of delivery and related M&E systems, strengthened human resources and delivery tools at all levels of administration, and continued advocacy and evidence generation for the expansion of social protection, including financing and impact evaluation.

## Outcome 2



## Expanding Economic Opportunity



## Decent Work

In 2023, the UNCT will continue implementing and expanding the BEEP and FL-SkillsFuture programmes to target groups, such as prisoners, youth in rehabilitation centres, returning youth migrants and garment factory workers. Support will be provided towards digitalization and green transformation of the TVET system, entrepreneurship ecosystem, business development, and the integration of employment and entrepreneurship development services in the TVET system.

scheme and develop a roadmap to meet the European Union export condition. A traceability model will be developed and implemented and target beneficiaries of the Value Chain Investment Support-Fast Track Scheme in their value chains.



## Inclusive Development and Reducing Inequalities

The UNCT will continue supporting national policies/priorities to accelerate socio-economic inclusion, resilience and green growth, in line with good governance principles. This includes promoting a multidimensional approach to progress, with a focus on deprivation and vulnerability associated with social, economic and climatic dimensions.



## Business Environment Improvement

Efforts will be made to promote green manufacturing through the Transfer of Environmentally Sound Technology and Eco Industrial Park. An enabling environment will support youth entrepreneurship and enterprises with improved access to information and finance. The Fisheries Administration will be supported to implement the Cambodia Quality Seal

The Integrated National Financing Framework will be strengthened to promote dialogue between the Government, private sector, civil society and development partners to support graduation from LDC status and sustainable SDG financing. Cambodia's SDG18 (mine action) will be accelerated, linking cleared lands to development planning and institutional governance mechanisms.

## Outcome 3



### Promoting Sustainable Living



#### Food Security and Nutrition

The UNCT will support the Council for Agricultural and Rural Development (CARD) and line ministries to implement commitments in global summits on food systems and nutrition for growth, including the national food systems roadmap, and to support inclusive, sustainable agri-food systems, food control and food safety, agroecology, green value chain development and market access to accelerate food system transformation for sustainable development.



#### Energy – Lower Costs and Increase Growth

The UNCT will support implementation of the Resource Efficiency and Cleaner Production Strategy and Action Plans 2021–2030 and the New Biogas Policy, and to promote the Green Industrial Award and Clean Technology Investment. Access to electricity will be increased and sustainable energy solutions promoted through the Energy Code and Rooftop Solar Policy.



#### Environmental Protection and Climate Change Adaptation

The UNCT will support Cambodia in the areas of climate change mitigation and adaptation by

strengthening the management of protected areas. Coordination among key stakeholders will be supported at both national and sub-national levels to promote environmental conservation and sustainable development, including via the Tonle Sap Biosphere Reserve Coordination Mechanism.

Systems and capacities will be enhanced to build resilience to climate-related hazards in water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), education and social protection, through technical support for climate risk-informed programming in these sectors. Innovative financing solutions and private sector engagement will support climate resilience in WASH and solid waste management, including via collaboration with the UNCT and the Joint SDG Fund.

The National Council for Sustainable Development will be supported to update the Cambodian Climate Change Strategic Plan 2014–2023, and implementation of the Long-term Strategy for Carbon Neutrality similarly will be supported. Nature-based solutions will enhance natural resource management and reduce deforestation, and support will be provided to advance Cambodia's transition to a circular economy. The National Social Protection Council and line ministries will be supported to operationalise the shock-responsive social protection framework and adopt an anticipatory action approach to disaster risk management.

## Outcome 4



### Strengthening Participation and Accountability



#### Human Rights for All

The UNCT will continue supporting the engagement and movements of civil society, especially young gender advocates, addressing discriminatory and harmful social and gender norms. CSOs will be

supported to increase access to information for women migrants and their family members through an innovative tool, the My Journey mobile app. Mechanisms will be strengthened to respond to GBV cases among women migrant workers.

Evidence-based analyses of the economic and social rights situation will be conducted to support the

Government in implementing effective policies and programmes to protect and fulfil the economic and social rights of all, ensuring inclusion of indigenous peoples, youth, women, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex people, persons with disabilities and labour union members. Safe spaces and forums for Government, judiciary and civil society will be provided to support development of legislation and programmes related to freedom of expression and access to information.

The role of media in a democratic society will be strengthened, by building the capacities of journalists and relevant authorities, supporting journalists and media associations, and raising awareness on the importance of freedom of expression for the realisation of all other human rights. CSO-led initiatives will benefit from technical support and capacity-building to enable them to participate fully in policymaking. The capacity of people living with HIV and key population community networks will also be supported, including by strengthening and scaling up community-led monitoring.



### Public Institution Functioning

The UNCT will continue providing technical support to the Government on laws, policies and practices to effectively combat discrimination in all forms, including HIV-related stigma and discrimination, and to address the root causes of inequality. The Government will be supported to increase the effectiveness of judicial and non-judicial accountability mechanisms and policies. In particular, the UNCT will support the establishment of both a National Human Rights Institution and the National Preventive Mechanism against torture and ill-treatment in line with international human rights norms. The Government will be supported to improve the safety of journalists and human rights defenders.

The MoEYS will be supported to build the capacity of teachers, implement comprehensive sexuality education in schools, implement the school healthy room programme, and finalise related textbooks and training manuals for pre-service students at the regional teacher training college. In addition, the adolescents and youth-friendly mobile app will be

supported to ensure young people access to sexual and reproductive health and rights. The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) will benefit from support on the Criminal Case Database to ensure case progression in the justice system and increase transparency and efficiency in the courts, reducing excessive periods of pre-trial detention and delayed release after the completion of sentences. The Government will also be supported on child protection, including the endorsement of child protection law, the development of related regulations, and continued capacity-building of justice service providers at both national and subnational levels to enhance effectiveness of Juvenile Justice Law implementation. The National Committee for Disaster Management and relevant partners will be supported to systematically mainstream gender into climate actions and disaster risk reduction



### Implementation and Monitoring of Laws and Standards

The UNCT will support the Government to submit reports to International Human Rights Mechanisms and conduct consultations with CSOs. Technical assistance and capacity-building support will be provided to the Government to ensure development of legislation and policies related to the regulation of cyberspace in line with international standards and to increase the effectiveness of judicial and non-judicial accountability mechanisms and policies. Technical support will also help bring the legal framework into compliance with international human rights norms and standards.



### Gender Equality, Gender-based Violence, and Violence Against Children

The UNCT will support the Government to implement existing policies, strategies and plans of MoWA. This includes implementing the GBV digital platform and establishing a safe space for GBV survivors under the framework of multi-sectoral coordinated services through consultative meetings with key stakeholders. Technical support will enable MoWA to develop



a roadmap for reform of the Law on Prevention of Domestic Violence and Protection of Victims, standard operating procedures for referrals related to violence against women at the district level, and a helpline referral to guide service delivery and referral, and to conduct the final evaluation of the third National Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against Women.

The UNCT will support and continue partnering with 3PC and Child Helpline Cambodia to deliver child protection services, including mental health and psychosocial support services and GBV risk mitigation and response services. The institutional capacity of MoSVY, particularly the social service workforce, will be enhanced to deliver prevention and response services in the area of child protection (e.g. case management), strengthen referral pathways through implementation of Child Protection Standard Operating Procedures, and roll out the social service workforce training modules (e.g. GBV modules).



## Strengthening of National Statistical System and Capacity

The UNCT will provide technical support to, and build the capacity of, the Ministry of Planning and relevant line ministries to analyse and utilise the Cambodia Demographic and Health Survey 2021–22 data to plan and monitor development policies and programmes, including CSDGs, Voluntary National Review 2023 and National Strategic Development Plan 2024–2028. Implementation of the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics will be supported, alongside SDG monitoring and reporting, which includes support to the agriculture census, survey, and NIS on National Development/SDG Indicators Reporting Platform/Data Exchange (CAMSTAT) and a CSDG/SDG tracking portal. The NIS will be supported and capacity built on alternative data solutions, with a focus on “big data”.

### Outcome 5



## Managing Urbanization

The UNCT will reinforce and scale up HIV prevention services and innovative and differentiated HIV testing, and provide support and strategic guidance for implementation of the Fast Track City Strategic Plan in Banteay Meanchey, Battambang, Phnom Penh, and Siem Reap.

Climate change adaptation and resilience will be strengthened via protective small-scale infrastructure interventions in coastal settlements at Kep and Preah Sihanouk provinces and disaster risk strategies and management plans for the protection of cultural heritage sites in Cambodia.

Access to health, labour rights, and employment support will be improved for migrants, by assisting the Government in implementing the annual Operational

Plan for migrant health (2023–2024) and upgrading the policy on Labour Migration (2019–2023).

The National Smart Cities Committee will be supported to develop the National Roadmap for the Development of the Smart Cities Strategy and Framework and Cambodia’s chairmanship of the ASEAN Smart Cities Network. This will foster results in compliance with the three principles of the human-rights-based approach, LNOB, and both gender equality and women’s empowerment. The Government will be supported to develop integrated urban and territorial policies at the national, subnational, and local levels to safeguard and promote urban heritage and cultural infrastructures, as well as traditional knowledge and the arts, and to leverage tangible and intangible cultural heritage in cities across Cambodia.





# ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT 2022 CAMBODIA

March 2023



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CAMBODIA

