



**UNITED NATIONS
CAMBODIA**



Annual Results Report 2022 Cambodia

Draft

March 2023

Contents

Acronyms (TBC)	3
Foreword	4
UN Country Team	5
Chapter 1: Key Development Context	6
Chapter 2: UN Development System Support to National Development Priorities	9
Outcome 1 - Expanding Social Opportunity	10
Outcome 2 - Expanding Economic Opportunity	18
Outcome 3 - Promoting Sustainable Living	22
Outcome 4 - Strengthening Participation and Accountability	27
Outcome 5 - Managing Urbanization	34
Evaluations and Lesson Learned	36
Support to Partnerships and Financing the 2030 Agenda	39
Financial Overview and Resource Mobilization (To be updated with RG3)	41
Chapter 3: UN Country Team Strategic Focus for 2023	42

Draft

Acronyms (TBC)

BEEP	Basic Education Equivalency Programme
CARD	Council for Agricultural and Rural Development
CENAT	
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
ILO	International Labour Organization
MoEYS	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport
MoH	Ministry of Health
MSME	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
NEA	National Ecosystem Assessment
PLHIV	People Living with HIV/AIDS
RGC	Royal Government of Cambodia
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SME	Small and Medium Enterprise
TEST	Transfer of Environmentally Sound Technologies
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
UN	United Nations
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WHO	World Health Organization

Draft

Foreword

To be prepared

Joseph Scheuer
Resident Coordinator
United Nations in Cambodia

Draft

UN Country Team



UN COUNTRY TEAM

Resident UN Agencies



Non-resident UN Agencies



Key Government Counterparts

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

Chapter 1: Key Development Context

The Cambodian economy achieved an estimated **growth rate of 5.2 percent in 2022** after a minimal **growth rate of 3% in 2021**.¹ The GDP growth is buoyed by strong export demands for garment and non-garment manufacturing products despite multiple crises such as the war in Ukraine, China's zero COVID-19 policy and rising inflation. The expansionary fiscal policy also plays a key role in stimulating domestic demands and thus fostering the GDP growth. The government injected an estimated stimulus package of US\$ 913 million for a number of socio-economic interventions in 2022.

Garment, footwear and travel goods (GFT) continues to be the key export merchandise, driving exports and GDP growth, although their contribution to the **total exports excluding gold has decreased subsequently from 76.1 percent in 2018 to 63 percent in 2022**. The GFT export grew by **14.5 percent** year-on-year (yoy) in 2022, reaching US\$12.8 billion. The non-GFT exports (excluding gold) **rose 20.6 percent yoy to US\$7.5 billion in 2022**.² This trend indicates the gradual diversification of the export products, and Cambodia has become less dependent on the GFT sector.

After a dip in two consecutive years of 2020-2021, the tourism sector rebounded in 2022. The number of **international tourist arrival rose from 196,495 in 2021 to 2.3 million in 2022** after the country's borders were re-opened in late 2021. However, the number of international tourist arrivals in 2022 was just 34.8 percent of the pre-pandemic level. Meanwhile, **domestic tourists were reported at 13.9 million in 2022**.³

The construction and real estate sector continued to have sluggish growth because of the slow recovery in foreign capital inflows on which the sector relies. The investment in **this sector grew by 8.9 percent to US\$312 million** only in the first half of the 2022.⁴

Despite the **low growth rate of 0.7 percent in 2022**,⁵ the agriculture sector continued to support the GDP growth and played a buffer role in cushioning the people's livelihoods that had been affected by the two consecutive years of the COVID-19 crisis.

Foreign direct investment (FDI) barely recovered from the plunge in 2020-2021. The FDI inflows in the first three quarters of 2022 was recorded at US\$2.6 billion, **an increase of only 0.6 percent yoy**.⁶ The FDI continued to concentrate on the GFT sector that has supported the creation of jobs and growth. This underlines the importance of increasing efforts to attract FDI and mobilize domestic investments to build up the capital formation – essential for bringing the economy back on track of the high potential growth – and create economic opportunities and employment for the growing labour force.

Although the policy measure on loan restructuring has been withdrawn from July 2022, the monetary policy continued to be accommodative. The National Bank of Cambodia has **maintained the current level of 7 percent** for both US dollar and Khmer Riel reserve requirements and 1.25 percent for the capital conservative buffer (CCB) – supporting liquidity in the banking system. Between 2013 and 2019, private sector credit growth expanded on an average rate of 24 percent annually and slowed mildly during the pandemic. By the end of 2021, **private sector credit reached 170 percent of GDP**, which was significantly higher than the regional economic peers.⁷ As this high credit level cannot be

¹ MEF (2023) 'Cambodia Macroeconomic Outlook 2023.'

² Based on data from the General Department of Customs and Excise (GDCE), MEF.

³ Ministry of Tourism (2022) 'Tourism Statistics Report.'

⁴ Based on data from the Council for the Development of Cambodia (CDC).

⁵ MEF (2023) 'Cambodia Macroeconomic Outlook 2023.'

⁶ Based on data from the National Bank of Cambodia.

⁷ IMF (2022) 'IMF Article IV Consultation Report 2022.'

considered solely as the improved financial sector development, it highlights the heightened risk to the financial system.

Inflation rose to 7.8 percent yoy in June 2022 before **slowing down to 3.2 percent in November**.⁸ Cambodia is the net importer of food and fertilizers and especially fuel. As such, the rising prices of fuel, food and fertilizers in the first half of the year due to the disruptions of supply chains driven by the war in Ukraine, Cambodia experienced a high inflation rate like many other countries. Cambodia is a highly dollarized economy as the share of foreign currencies in the money supply is consistently above 80 percent.⁹ This has somewhat helped muted the inflation rate as the US dollar has appreciated against other currencies. And yet, in terms of export competitiveness, this places Cambodia in an unfavourable position next to its trading partners and export competitors. The exchange rate was stable – averaging KHR 4,102 per US dollar.¹⁰ It was not under significant pressure due to large foreign exchange reserves.

Worth noting is that a set of pre-existing socio-economic vulnerabilities make Cambodia more susceptible to external shocks and aggravate the welfare and distributional impacts of the shocks. A large chunk of the population is clustered around the poverty line, and there is a high level of the poverty headcount (i.e., **17.8 percent in 2020**).

The scarring socio-economic impact of the pandemic combined with the consequences of the high inflation and intensifying climate change have threatened the agriculture and food systems, jeopardizing food security and nutrition. Whereas child stunting (low-height-for-age) or chronic malnutrition significantly **improved from a prevalence rate of 34 percent in 2014 to 22 percent in 2021**, child wasting (low weight-for-height) or acute malnutrition **remained unchanged at around 10 percent**, which is exceptionally high.¹¹ Despite progress in coverage, Cambodia is off-track to achieve universal basic water supply, sanitation and hygiene by 2030 based on annual changes achieved in 2000–2020. There remains a large gap in schools with basic handwashing facilities (given the current level of 68 percent in 2021).¹²

Patients' out-of-pocket expenditure remains exceptionally high – 60 percent of total health expenditure – a burden for Cambodians.¹³ The proportion of households experiencing **high health expenditure** (over 10 percent of total consumption) **has risen from 13 percent in 2014 to 18 percent in 2019**, with rural households most affected (over 20 percent versus 13 percent for urban households).¹⁴

Prospect of Cambodia's economy in the near terms is marked by high uncertainty, relying on the course of external economic conditions. The continuous global stresses, including the prolonged war in Ukraine and financial condition tightening, and China's economic slowdown are the downside risks to Cambodia's economic performance. Despite the challenges, the economy is likely to be driven mainly by tourism and travel recovery and external demands for Cambodia's merchandise exports, including the GFT and agricultural products.

Political and Human Rights Context

There have been efforts by the government to **improve democratic and civic space** in Cambodia by introducing a number of legal measures in recent years, including making amendments to election-related laws to enable banned politicians to request political rehabilitation through the government

⁸ Based on data from the National Bank of Cambodia.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ NIS, MoH and ICF (2022) 'Cambodia Demographic and Health Survey 2021-22 Key Indicators Report.'

¹² UNICEF and WHO (2022). "Joint Monitoring Programme".

¹³ WHO (2022). "Global Health Expenditure Database".

¹⁴ Ibid.

and create new political parties. Further, the Commune Elections in June 2022 saw **participation by several political parties**, and amendments to the Law on Associations and Non-Governmental Organisations (LANGO) remains subject to ongoing dialogue with the civil society organizations. Despite these developments, the **democratic and civic space remains constrained**. Following his mission to Cambodia in August 2022, the UN Special Rapporteur on the human Rights Situation in Cambodia noted that “The stultification of political and democratic space contravenes the promises made by all parties at the Peace Accords” and that “(w)ith the forthcoming national elections in 2023, the country is challenged to open up that [democratic] space”. Further, he noted that within Cambodia “many human rights and environmental defenders, media and related organisations voiced concern about the shrinking or shrunken civic and political space”, highlighting concerns about intimidation and harassment by the authorities as well as potential prosecution and criminal charges. This constriction of the political and civic space and discourse therefore leaves limited avenues for people to express their legitimate voices and concerns and fully participate in the democratic process in Cambodia. As evidenced by the hundreds of political party leaders and members, especially those from the opposition, who have been barred from engagement in the political process due to legal action brought against them by the authorities, the risk of political and civic exclusion has been mounting. Lack of fair and transparent political processes also inhibits effective representation of society, most markedly for those at risk of being left behind or those seeking to present a legitimate oppositional voice.

Draft

Chapter 2: UN Development System Support to National Development Priorities

(TO ADD A PHOTO in infographic design)

Draft



Outcome 1 - Expanding Social Opportunity

By 2023, women and men in Cambodia, in particular the marginalized and vulnerable, have their basic needs addressed equitably as they benefit from and utilize expanded quality social services and social protection in a more resilient, fairer and sustainable society.

Key Results of the United Nations (UN) Contribution to Expanding Social Opportunity

Health

Cambodia continues to respond well to the challenges posed by COVID-19. As of December 2022, over **91% of Cambodians had received the primary series of COVID-19 vaccines** and **73% of elderly had also received a booster dose** with a group of UN agencies continuing to provide support to planning, vaccine and cold chain management and Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE). MOH leadership across all areas of pandemic response was supported including intersectoral coordination and development of sector-based guidance on public health and social measures guidance.

Shifting from initial phase to protracted phase of COVID-19 response the UN, has supported MoH leadership in using COVID-19 to continue to **improve health system preparedness for and response and resilience to public health threats. Subnational capacity has been built in all 25 provinces** on multi-source surveillance, risk assessment and incident management training, simulation exercises, and intra-action reviews undertaken as well as expansion of national and subnational laboratory capacity and functions. The UN continued its technical support not only to strengthen the national capacity on animal health, transboundary diseases surveillance and One Health, but also antimicrobial resistance (AMR), all of which are critical for public health, food safety and farmers' livelihoods. In addition, the UN has supported MoH in reviewing the current influenza program to inform respiratory disease system expansions plans, the development of a new Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) strategic plan for 2022-2030, and development Antimicrobial Stewardship (AMS) policies, training curricula, and monitoring guidelines.

The UN continue supporting RGC's longer term strategic directions in health including the support to the MoH's development of the fourth **Health Strategic Plan (HSP4) 2023-2033, National Digital Health Strategy, Health Workforce Development Plan (HWD4) 2023-2033**, framework to enhance **Primary Health Care (PHC) and Community Participation Policy** update. After the endorsement of the Migrant Health Policy in 2021, the UN has supported the RGC on the development of a ten-year **National Strategic Plan for Migrant Health (2022-2030)**. MoH shifts to Competency Based Education (CBE) of health professionals including introduction of a core competency framework for midwives and skills building of national and regional training center educators in delivering CBE teaching and assessment. The UN have leveraged innovative opportunities in digital health including development and use of e-learning and online coaching platforms, providing ongoing access to resources for continued learning.

To address Cambodia's growing burden of non-communicable diseases (NCD), the MoH, with the UN's support, developed and endorsed the **National Strategic Plan for the Prevention and Control of NCDs 2022-2030**, strengthened services in a further 94 health centers for priority NCDs and drafted the **Mental Health Strategic Plan (MHSP) 2022-2030**. The UN also supported capacity development for social prescribing at community level to ensure linkages with needed services supporting and preparing for growing ageing population.

The UN continue supporting MoH implementation of **early essential newborn care (EENC)** including the annual implementation review and formulation of operational plans. In the northeast provinces

where maternal and child mortality is high, the UN continued to support local health departments in **coaching of midwives for improved quality of services** and timeliness of referral. All public health facilities now provide at least three **modern family planning methods** with the UN support including skills building, maternal death audit structures and reviews nationally and sub-nationally to accelerate **maternal death reduction** towards SDG goals. The UN also helped expanding youth friendly services in health centers serving 93,501 adolescents and youths (60,757 female) in 2022.

Below are several key highlights of results that the UN has contributed to:

- **Maternal mortality declines** (from **170 to 154**/100,000 live births) between 2014 and 2021.
- **Under-5 mortality reduced** from **35 to 16** deaths/1,000 live births between 2014 and 2021.
- **Neonatal mortality declines** from **18 to 8 per 1000** live births between 2014- 2021; this is a 56% decline compared with an average decline of only 12% globally 2015-2020.
- **Live births assisted by a skilled provider has increased** from **89% to 99%** between 2014 and 2021.
- Percentage of women who received four or more **ANC visits increased** from **75.6% to 86%** between 2014 and 2021.
- **Modern contraceptive prevalence rate (mCPR) has increased** 39% in 2014 to 45% in 2021.

Cambodia has achieved much in **the reduction of key communicable diseases** and hence there has been a growing focus on strategies to reach most affected vulnerable groups at risk of being left behind, including mobile and migrant populations, with key interventions for malaria; TB; HIV/AIDS, hepatitis, neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) and immunization. This ensured reach of services despite continued challenges of COVID-19. Below are key results which the UN has contributed to:

- The UN and other partners including civil society, supported NCHADS in maintaining physical and rapid expansion of virtual outreach for key populations, scaling up of combination HIV prevention, and use of innovative targeted approaches for HIV testing and treatment. **94,142** key populations were reached by HIV prevention services between Jan-Dec 2022 which includes **38,726** Female Entertainment Workers (FEWs); **45,927** Men who have Sex with Men (MSM); **8,676** Transgender (TGs), and **813** People Who Inject Drugs (PWID).
- Coverage of multi-month dispensing of ARVs to maintain continuity in treatment increased to 77% by November 2022, more than doubling since December 2020.
- Cambodia has **reduced malaria cases significantly**, from **106,901** cases in 2011 to only **4,053** (3323 males and 770 females) confirmed malaria cases in 2022. Only **414** falciparum malaria cases were reported in 2022.
- **Integration of services for TB has been strengthened** as part of the UN, USAID and partners support to National Center for Tuberculosis and Leprosy Control (CENAT)'s implementation of the TB national strategic plan. Successes have seen in **improved contact tracing and scale up of GeneXpert rapid TB diagnosis and Rifampicin sensitivity test** in two thirds of operational districts contributed to a 49% increase in TB notifications between 2021 and 2022.

Last but not least, the UN supported the Government's development of a future focused 5-year **national immunization strategy** that prioritizes reaching underserved groups by strengthening community outreach.

Education

After the extended school closure (250 out of 400 school days during the 2019/20 and 2020/21 school years), **Cambodian schools fully re-opened in January 2022**. Through intensive distance education efforts during school closure, digital education has become one of MoEYS' new priorities. While several digital tools and platforms have been in operation with the involvement of multiple actors including the private sector, they are not well coordinated, harmonized, or synergized. The formulation of a **national digital education strategy** was initiated by MoEYS with the support of the UN to develop coherent visions and plans for digital education.

As part of Cambodia's ambitious teacher reform to improve the quality of education, the UN has been supporting the government in implementing several mutually reinforcing interventions. With the support of the UN, a first-of-its-kind **national Continuous Professional Development (CPD)** system has been developed and rolled out to provide all teachers in Cambodia with opportunities for upskilling to support their career development. The **Human Resource Management Information System (HRMIS)** has been upgraded to enhance its capabilities to manage CPD and Teacher Career Pathway (TCP) data to ensure that CPD credits are recorded and can contribute to the career growth of teachers.

In addition, the UN contributed to the development and expansion of various **in-service and pre-service teacher training programmes** in areas such as early childhood education, inclusive education, multilingual education and life skills education. New materials and lesson plans for **life skills education focused on climate change** issues were developed, which will be rolled out in 2023.

To ensure that teacher educators have the skills to provide quality teacher education, the UN developed a **needs-based blended in-service training programme** to upskill 290 teacher educators in ICT and pedagogical skills to better prepare new generations of primary school teachers to teach in line with the changing demands of education and society. Another 67 teacher educators (32 women) successfully completed the Bachelor of Education programme developed with the UN's support, to upgrade their qualifications in line with international standards. 114 directors and management staff (25 women) of all teacher training colleges across Cambodia were trained in the management and maintenance of their institutions to ensure that these colleges provide a conducive learning environment for future primary school teachers to receive their pre-service training.

To improve student learning outcomes in the early grades, the UN has leveraged complementary support to support the MoEYS in implementing its **national early grade learning programme**, which includes the development of teaching and learning materials, a mentoring programme, and comprehensive teacher training to support teachers in delivering effective teaching and learning for early graders to acquire foundational literacy and numeracy skills. The UN supported the development of the **new Grade 3 Maths packages**, completing the full range of teaching and learning material packages for Grade 1 to 3 Maths. As part of the roll out, the UN trained nearly **7,000 education staff** to use the Grade 1 and 2 packages and introduce active learning strategies to improve student learning in the classrooms. A national mentoring system has been established, with over 9,500 mentoring visits conducted in 2022 to provide teachers with direct professional support. In addition, the UN also supported the roll out of the **early grade reading package**, with 579 teachers (66 percent female) having received training and 808 teachers mentored or coached.

To ensure that children learn in a safe and conducive environment in schools, including the safe preparation and consumption of school meals and adequate hygiene, the UN constructed and/or **rehabilitated over 2,000 school infrastructures** such as kitchens, storerooms, fuel-efficient stoves and handwashing stations, equipped kitchens with utensils, and supplied 1.5 mt of seeds to support school gardening.

The UN continues to support girls and female adolescents with important **Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE)**. In 2022, the UN **procured basic equipment and materials** to support MoEYS to establish school health rooms in 8 of the 1646 schools. The health room, which is part of the School Health Room Programme, is a place for youth counselling and consultation on physical, mental and reproductive health, for girl students related to menstruation, and hygiene in particular as well as being a key resource for teachers to be trained in CSE. 70 (34 female) teachers and school principals were trained on SOP-SHP and the School Health Room Programme.

Nutrition

The prevalence of stunting in children under five throughout the country has **reduced from 32 percent in 2014 to 22 percent in 2021/22**. Inequity does, though, persist, with **stunting prevalence over 30%** in the poorest socioeconomic quintile versus 12.5% in the wealthiest. The prevalence of wasting in children under five, however, has **remained unchanged at 10 percent**.

Between 2014 and 2022, rates of early initiation of and exclusive breastfeeding to 6 months have **declined substantially – from 63% to 54% and 65% to 51% respectively** – a concerning trend with implications for other childhood nutrition outcomes.

As a result of expanded health and nutrition outreach services, a total of **209,914 children** (102,765 Girls) were **screened for acute malnutrition (SAM)**. Of this total, **6,657 SAM** cases were admitted for treatment, which is 34 percent higher than the number achieved in 2021 (4,950). Moreover, in 2022, a total of 755 health workers from 249 health centers and 20 Referral Hospitals were trained on identification, referral and treatment of wasting.

In 2022, the UN continued to play a lead role supporting Government in its efforts towards progressing nutrition related to the CSDGs including the Global Nutrition Targets, and implementation of the national Global Action Plan (GAP) roadmap for child wasting. With the UN's support, Cambodia mobilized \$3.4 million USD, **reducing the funding gap for wasting treatment services from 80 percent to 40 percent**. This funding will enable the Government to expand prevention and treatment services to six new provinces in 2023.

Moreover, the UN also jointly supported the Ministry of Health to develop the second edition of the **Fast Track Roadmap** for Improving Nutrition to further support the enabling environment for nutrition. Under the SUN Business Network, a community of practice on rice fortification was established in 2022 to further support this agenda. The UN also provided technical support to **Green Trade**, a government-owned miller to blend 500 metric tons of fortified rice in country to use in the school feeding programme. This rice benefitted **55,928 students** (27,218 girls) in 222 schools across three provinces.

Social Protection

UN continued its significant investment in social protection policy and programme design, and the delivery systems to support the expansion of the scope and coverage of the social protection in Cambodia in 2022.

Social Protection Delivery

To address the combined impacts of Covid-19 and the global inflation, continued support was provided to the General Secretariat of the National Social Protection Council (GS-NSPC), the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth/National Social Assistance Fund (MOSVY/NSAF) and the Ministry of Planning IDPoor Department (MoP/IDPoor) to deliver the **national Covid-19 Cash Transfer Programme for the Poor and Vulnerable Households** (Covid-19 CT Programme) reaching **706,648 households**.

Technical assistance and delivery support was also provided to the RGC to implement two additional shock-responsive cash transfer programmes for: 1) Households Severely Affected by Floods, reaching **99,169 households** in 15 Provinces; and 2) Vulnerable Households during the High Inflation reaching **260,526 households**.

According to the UN macro impact modelling, the current government's stimulus interventions including social protection are likely to **have beneficial effects on GDP growth (+1%), employment (+0.2%), and poverty (-0.5%) in 2022.**

Direct cash assistance delivered by UN included over **120,000 people** (26,561 households) affected by multiple shocks, including the 2020 and 2021 floods and COVID-19¹⁵. The UN provided hot breakfast (home-grown meals) to over **215,400 schoolchildren** (49 percent girls) averaging at 19 days per month. In March 2022, the UN signed a strategy with the Government for the handover of the school feeding programme by 2028.

Support to three **routine national cash transfer programmes** continued with more than **614,000** beneficiaries covered through the Cash Transfer Programme for Pregnant Women and Children under Two, the Scholarship Programme, and; Disability Allowance covered cumulatively.

The UN also continued the technical support and implementation of the Pension scheme for workers in the private sector rolled out by the National Social Security Fund in October 2022, which allowed approximately **1.6 million additional workers** to accrue benefits for their retirement.

Policy Advocacy and Evidence Generation

The UN-supported **Mid-Term Review of the National Social Protection Policy Framework 2016-2025** (NSPPF) which contributed to the refinement of the vision of the RGC of the Social Protection and provided input for the revision of the NSPPF in 2023.

To address and increase confidence of government partners on the expansion of the scope and coverage of social security to the informal sector, informal workers and the elderly population, the UN supported the GS-NSPC and MEF, through **south-south exchange** and several policy research initiatives, including on options to design a multi-tiered pension system and an integrated formalization strategy covering micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). The developed options support piloting or rolling out the scheme including a pilot to enroll tuk-tuk drivers and domestic workers.



The UN put in place technical assistance to support GS-NSPC to **develop the tools and options paper on linkages among cash transfers and complementary and basic services**, as well as the development of the shock-responsive complement to the Family Package¹⁶. The demand survey of the opportunities and barriers of the poor and at-risk youth to engage in TVET was implemented with GS-NSPC, resulting in the draft design of the TVET Scheme for the poor and at-risk youth in line with the RGC Economic Recovery Plan. The evidence-base generation also focused on modelling through the randomized control experimentation of the **Graduation Based Social Protection** (GBSP) model integrating cash transfers and livelihoods strengthening¹⁷. An early impact assessment of the model is being undertaken to support scale-up. The UN supported the GS-NSPC to finalize the **national shock responsive social protection framework** to be officially adopted as a national policy in 2023. Following the direct provision of cash assistance to flood-affected populations, the UN commissioned a knowledge partner to document operational learning that can inform future Government-led **shock responsive social assistance schemes**.

¹⁵ Direct transfers provided by UN covered 77 communes in five provinces: Battambang, Pursat, Banteay Meanchey, Siem Reap, and Kampong Thom, with a value of cash transfer established at USD 29 per person provided through four monthly instalments

¹⁶ The Family Package of integrated cash transfer programmes will be rolled out after the RGC decision to exit from the emergency Covid-19 Cash Transfer Programme.

¹⁷ Under the GBSP modelling, 1,587 households continued to receive 12 months of social protection package such as provision of cash, agricultural inputs, technical training, financial literacy and income generation opportunities to build socio-economic resilience.

The Country-led Evaluation of the Cash Transfer Programme for Pregnant Women and Children under Two and its Government Management Plan were completed with action taken to fine-tune this programme covering over more than 278,000 children and pregnant women.

The Cash Transfer Payment Service Provider Assessment resulted in the development of options to diversify payment options for the cash transfer delivery. The joint evaluation of the Covid-19 Cash Transfer programme implemented by UN and GS-NSPC resulted in confirming positive impacts of the programme¹⁸. The UN has also supported MoSVY to update the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) to support harmonization of the transfer values for social assistance programmes.

The UN continued, in collaboration with ADB and the SDG Fund, the collection of the data on Socio-Economic Impact Survey (phase III), to provide timely information on food and nutrition security (FSN) and other essential needs of vulnerable populations. This has been completed by regular monitoring and development of the FSN trend in collaboration with the National Institute of Statistics (NIS).

System Tools and Institutional Building

One of the key milestones in the institutional development has been the establishment of the **National Social Assistance Fund (NSAF)** under the MoSVY, charged for the delivering all cash transfer programmes, with UN providing full support for its institutional building¹⁹. The UN supported the establishment of the **Social Security Regulator** under the Non-Banking Financial Service Act to provide regulatory oversight of the sector and to improve public accountability and trust of the social security pillar of the social protection system.

The UN has also focused on the support to the development of the system tools and institutional building for social protection. The UN, in collaboration with the World Bank (WB), supported the **revision of the IDPoor poverty identification tools**, including for the near-poor households. Building on a scoping study, the UN has **expanded the scope of IDPoor registration of individual PLHIV** started in 8 ART sites in Cambodia through a web-based registration system and other tools²⁰ registering 583 PLHIV. IDPoor was further supported by the integration and use of the disaster management information system (PRIMS) and the development of a digital complaint mechanism of the IDPoor Programme²¹. The delivery capacity of MoSVY/NSAF were further developed through UN investment in integrated ICT platforms and management information systems, capacity development and communication. The 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 of UN effort to build system tools, the designated government officials in **1,652** communes in Cambodia 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.

¹⁸ The evaluation indicated that the Covid-19 CT Programme contributed to 0.45% of GDP growth, reduced the unemployment rate by 0.62% and reduced poverty by 3.4% in 2021.

¹⁹ Including regulatory framework, NSAF strategy, capacity development and organization development strategies linked to continued support to further building of the cash transfer digitalized delivery system.

²⁰ These 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.

²¹ 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 whistle blower among other features.

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

Since its inception in 1999, millions of children have benefited from WFP's school feeding programme in Cambodia. Ying Sreypov, now 26 years old and a successful programme manager at a large non-profit, is just one of those many beneficiaries.

Looking back, Sreypov has clear memories of the school meals she received as a child. Enthusiastically recounting the different components of the daily meals, she remembers, *"there was usually brown rice, canned fish and locally grown morning glory"*. Sreypov recalls that the meals helped her stay focused in school and offered her family an important form of support *"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 Sreypov's mother are regularly faced with multiple time-consuming responsibilities as they shoulder traditional household responsibilities and work to supplement their family's incomes.

"At that time, my mom made and sold Khmer traditional noodles to support us," Sreypov recounts. *"She had to get up very early in the morning to go to the market to sell the products and prepare the business for the next day."*

"I remembered her busying herself from dawn to dusk all the time, but still could not afford to send us to the private school, which was much closer to our home, like some kids in our neighborhood. I had to walk two kilometers to a public school every morning," she adds.

While Sreypov's family wasn't as deeply economically disadvantaged as some of her peers, she was aware that many families in her neighborhood were struggling and remembered that the meals were important in motivating 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."*

Elaborating, she says *"It was one meal that families didn't have to worry about what their children were going to get in their stomachs."*

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. *"They might also have become more aware of the inequality of their situation – that they weren't eating as well as others – and that might have made them drop out as well."*

On top of the nutritional support Sreypov received through the school meals, she credits her family with helping her to succeed academically, noting *"my family has been very dedicated to giving us children a chance to live our dreams and finish our education."*

Ultimately, this support and Sreypov's hard work led her to be awarded an undergraduate scholarship to Paññāsāstra University of Cambodia, in Phnom Penh, where she studied environmental science. She excelled in school and further won another coveted scholarship to study in Memphis, USA, for several years before she returned to Cambodia with a determination to put her knowledge into action and give back to people in her country.

Fresh out of school, she joined [Cricket House](#), a newly established social enterprise exploring the use of crickets as a sustainable source of protein for a growing population. In this role, she worked as an innovation researcher, learning from the work of pioneering scientists around the world and helping to apply her findings in the Cambodian context.

During her tenure with 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. With this support, the company began developing an environmentally friendly and micronutrient-rich snack for school-age children, in order to help displace the unhealthy snacks currently offered in or near primary schools in Cambodia and supplement the nutritional benefits of the school meals programme.

While undertaking pioneering work at Cricket House, Sreypov also threw herself into Cambodia's burgeoning start-up scene. She took part in Cambodia's celebrated 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, Sreypov 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 the school feeding programme played in helping make her dreams become a reality, Sreypov is also a strong advocate for the importance of school meals and innovation. *"I think nutrition is so helpful to young people. I would love to see the school feeding programme rolled out to all children in Cambodia, especially those from poorer backgrounds."*

"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, Sreypov's journey with WFP has truly come full circle. Despite the challenges she has faced and seen the country go through 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."

Draft



Outcome 2 - Expanding Economic Opportunity

By 2023, women and men in Cambodia, in particular those marginalized and vulnerable, benefit from expanded opportunities for decent work and technological innovations; and participate in a growing, more productive and competitive economy, that is also fairer and environmentally sustainable.

Key Results of the UN Contribution towards Expanding Economic Opportunities

Skill Development and Decent Work

In promoting decent employment, the focus of UN support in 2022 was on 1) provision of demand-driven skill building through enhanced engagement with private sector and digitalization of skill building approach; 2) expansion of the non-formal education sub-sector and digital education through the Basic Education Equivalency Programme (BEEP) and Factory Literacy Programmes (FLP); and 3) provision of support to MSMEs to improve competitiveness and enhance their resilience through digitalization. Below were the achievements in 2022 in those three focus areas:

Around **8,500** people gained more access to employment, benefitted from the support from the UN on skill development that responds to job market demand at both technical level through TVET system, and professional level.

The UN engaged with **873 companies and 12 TVET training institutions** on technical skills development. To build professional skills, the UN partnered with the Kampuchea Institute of Certified Public Accountants and Auditors (KICPAA) and 7 universities to integrate the (Accounting Technician Qualification) ATQ program in their curricula. In addition, UN collaborated with the National Committee for Tourism Professional (NCTP) to launch an **e-RPL platform** allowing students to get certified skills on tourism.

The UN also provided particular support to give second chance to those was not able to access to general education, through the expansion of scale of the BEEP, and the Factory Literacy Programme (FLP), benefitting total of around **1,889 people** (60% female) to have 2nd chance to upgrade their skill. BEEP programme has expanded its geographical scope to 26 learning centres in 14 provinces.

Through the digital and green transformation of the technical and vocational education and training (TVET) programmes, the UN delivered **TVET using Online Learning Management System (Moodle)** and face-to-face with 7 key schools, reached 235 students (68% female) at the pilot stage. In addition, the UN assisted in digitalizing business practice of **526 businesses** in manufacturing, construction, tourism, agro-business, and service sectors. 224 businesses reported improvements in digitalizing business practices with increase in sales and profit, improvement in management and quality, reduction of costs, and ability to maintain staffs during COVID-19.

Economic Productivity, Competitiveness and Innovation

To enhance economic productivity, competitiveness, and innovation, the UN focused the interventions on 1) supporting the country to identify new development financing option for the country; 2) supporting MSMEs in digitalization and upgrading value addition in the country fisheries products; and 3) provision of technical assistance to factories in resources efficiency and cleaner production.

The work on the **Integrated National Financing Framework** is ongoing, to shift from funding to development finance and prepare for a smoother LDC graduation. UN supported technically the issuance of a sovereign bond in local currency, a precedence in sovereign debt securities, and raised equivalent of **USD 17.6 million**. This first bond laid the foundations for access to local financing, expanding fiscal space and enhancing public finance sustainability to achieve national development goals without shifting the onus to taxpayers. In addition, the first SDG Investor Map was launched to harness private sector contributions to the SDGs. For women entrepreneurs, the first women credit guarantee scheme was supported to close the financing gap for women entrepreneurs. In 2022, it guaranteed loans about **USD 9.66 million**.

In partnership with the Ministry of Commerce and Khmer Enterprise, UN continued to build the capacities of **101 MSMEs** (39% women-owned businesses) on Business Digital Transformation. Of these, 47 MSMEs registered their business online or were onboarded onto e-commerce marketplaces. As a result, 22 MSMEs reported increases in revenue after the incubation programme on digital transformation, and 306 new jobs created.

To build competitiveness for SME owners and entrepreneurship for young, UN provided various activity-based entrepreneurship, ready-for-business and business resilience trainings to **8,000** young people and SME owners in 2022. Among these participants, 878 MSME owners in the tourism and agriculture benefited from a newly developed tool on MSM Resilience to address concerns on COVID-19 risks. In addition, the Ministry of Tourism (MoT) adopted a SMEs Resilience training tool to provide a training on digitalization and e-commerce for the tourism sector.

To enhance post-harvest fisheries, the **Cambodia Quality Seal (CQS)** certification and auditing system, the **Strategic Framework for developing the Value Chain** in Cambodia, and the **Regulatory Framework for Veterinary Medicine Products (VMPs)** were developed with the UN's support. Letter of Intent (LoI) was signed with Institut Pasteur du Cambodge (IPC) to collaborate on the accreditation of the Laboratory of Environment and Food Safety of the IPC based on ISO 17025. Moreover, the UN also supported the Fisheries Administration for the audit of the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC) to export pangasius products to China. To improve the competitiveness of private sector post-harvest fisheries businesses and associated value chains, the UN supported 39 enterprises to develop business plans, and 28 of them endorsed and awarded the Fast Track Scheme (FTS) business development support and audit coaching for CQS and other food safety certificates.

Through the Transfer of Environmentally Sound Technologies (TEST), the UN provided technical assistance and capacity development to institutions and 35 factories and SMEs to promote green manufacturing by implementing resource efficiency and cleaner production (RECP) tools. With ongoing technical support, companies have invested in green technologies, implemented environmental system (EMS), and Environmental Management Accounting (EMA). As results, **85,000** tons of CO₂eq were reduced, **31,000 MWh** of energy saved, and MSMEs of water saved in 2022 according to Business as usual (BAU).

Economic Inclusion of Vulnerable People

Through the Employment Intensive Investments Programme (EIIP), UN provided alternative employment opportunities for returning migrant workers. **700 migrant workers** and their community members have been employed for the rehabilitation of rural infrastructure projects in Battambang and Siem Reap.

To support the recovery plan during and post Covid-19 pandemic, the UN supported Ministry of Tourism (MoT) to build capacity of **170 tourism professionals** (100 female) on Food and Beverage

Services in Siem Reap in collaboration with the private sector. This initiative is being scaled up in Siem Reap, Battambang, and Banteay Meanchey.

To promote gender equality, the UN also collaborated with the Cambodian Women Entrepreneurs Association (CWEA) and Pact Cambodia and provided activity-based entrepreneurship training to learning approach, **1800 women and men entrepreneurs** in 2022.

The UN also supports innovation and productivity improvement through formal education. The **Know About Business (KAB)** entrepreneurship education was integrated into the national education curriculum for Grades 10, 11, 12, and extra-curricular activities. **1,082 young people** (670 female) participated in KAB workshops. Through the workshop, 130 new businesses (90 owned by women) were established in 2022 and created around **500 jobs** for young people mainly in agriculture, tourism and hospitality, manufacturing, and ICT sector. In addition, 150 existing youth-owned businesses (88 female), employed an estimated 500 young people, reported their business improvement.

57,157 people (47 percent are female) gained access to mine-free land as a result of the UN-supported mine clearance programme which enabled access to the safe use of **34.25 km²** of land for community and livelihood development.

Draft

Hoping for a Positive Future!

By Young Entrepreneur Association of Cambodia (YEAC) and UNDP

Mrs. Chran Ponny is a Chief Executive Director of Seasonfresh (Cambodia) Co., Ltd running her business selling fresh and dried mangoes and Longan. With her 13 permanent staff and around 200 workers, she runs her business without entrepreneurship and digital skills. During the Covid-19 spreading, her business faced more challenges than others. During the difficult time, it almost stuck for her business as less demand physically as before, and it caused her business supply chain was keeping decreased and tended to reduce workers as well.

She tries to survive her business in many ways, especially online selling. One day, she noticed the announcement called for applicants to join the "MSMEs Incubation Programme on Digitalization," implemented by the Young Entrepreneur Association of Cambodia. UNDP Cambodia supported the program, in a strategic partnership with the Ministry of Commerce and Khmer Enterprise, implementing a key initiative of Cambodia's e-commerce acceleration project (Go4eCAM) with a focus on skills and entrepreneurship for e-commerce (SME eBiznest), which is financed by the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) and the Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF).



Through the selection process, she was selected to join the programme. Over the past four months, she has received seven training modules with direct mentoring sessions and other events.

What is a change? She gained knowledge and skills in digital marketing, financial management, domestic and cross-border e-commerce, and significant exportation. She uses the skills to update the Facebook Page with resulted in increasing the reach up to 300% compared to the previous months. She expected to increase exportation by up to 50%-60% in March and April this year to China, positively contributing to an increase from 200 workers to 400 workers for her value chains.

"After improving my company's Facebook page, I was surprised that we can reach our customers up to 300% if I compare with last time. By this, we can ensure our supply chain, and we start to contract for exportation to China in March and April this year up to 50%-60%. This value chain would contribute to increasing the number of workers from 200 workers to 400 workers for the company," she continued.

Moreover, she is working with other incubees such as Kulen Spices Enterprise, Misota Food Import Export Co., Ltd, and Natural Food Store to build a business network for future cooperation to grow their business together.

"Many thanks to UNDP Cambodia, the Ministry of Commerce, Khmer Enterprise, Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF), and the Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF) for making this project happen. Also, thanks to the Young Entrepreneur Association of Cambodia which implemented this great programme. 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," she stated in this quote.



Outcome 3 - Promoting Sustainable Living

By 2023, women and men in Cambodia, in particular the marginalized and vulnerable, live in a safer, healthier, more secure and ecologically balanced environment with improved livelihoods, and are resilient to natural and climate change related trends and shocks.

Key Results of the UN Contribution towards Promoting Sustainable Living

Food Security, Nutrition and Livelihood's Support

The UN has used its continued technical assistance to RGC contributing to improved and better informed policy development and decision making, resulting in the development and endorsement of several critical RGC policies for example **National Agricultural Development Policy** (2022-2030). The UN also continued its policy assistance to **strengthen policy dialogues** for not only agriculture development and innovation, but also food system approach as well as food safety, food security and nutrition. The support has **strengthened the government's capacity** to elevate and deepen the discussion in food security, nutrition and the agrifood system.

The UN provided support to protect the livelihoods of more than **1,000** poor and vulnerable households (33% women) during the COVID-19 pandemic. The support provided has not only improved farmers' livelihoods and their access to nutritious food during the pandemic through the practice of safe, nutrition-sensitive and climate-resilient agriculture, but also has improved their incomes through the sale of surplus production. In addition, it has enhanced rural women's empowerment through the implementation of gender transformative approaches and community engagement.

14,890 people (6,916 women, 3,016 youths, and 96 people with disabilities) were empowered to lead 14 Community Forestry (CF) and 24 Community Protected Areas (CPA) initiatives, which resulted in the **protection and sustainable management of 14,427 hectare of CF forest areas** and 146,257 ha of CPA forest areas through the UN partnership with local NGOs/CBOs and sub-national level authorities. Communities living in or around the forests have also been provided with incentives and services to improve their wellbeing while limiting the unsustainable use of natural resources. **1,388** households have increased their income by introducing and applying good agriculture practices; **1,641** households have benefitted from the establishment of 223 saving groups (mainly targeting women); **1,103** households now have access to clean water and 643 households to renewable energy (home solar, mini-hydropower or solar water pumps).

Energy –Lower Costs and Increase Growth

With the UN's support, the RGC concluded a study on its quotas policy for rooftop solar PV promotion to overcome policy gaps, resulting in the issuance of a ministerial regulation expected to enable more **investments in rooftop solar**. A whitepaper on **Energy Saving Companies (ESCOs)** was developed to identify different business models to implement the **National Energy Efficiency Policy**. In addition, the UN has used the findings to sensitise and engage not only government and development partners, but also the private sector in order to form partnerships with ESCOs on energy efficiency. The RGC also developed **a roadmap for electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure**, which is key to enable EV market penetration given the need for an EV charging station network. Overall, UN's technical assistance and advocacy are expected to unlock investments (mostly from the private sector) in sustainable energy.

Technical assistance is being provided to pilot a low-cost, sustainable, locally suitable **Gravity-Driven Membrane (GDM) technology** to provide safe drinking water supply to rural climate-vulnerable communities. Students from three schools and over **200 rural villagers** living nearby these schools (116 women out of 208 persons living in 31 households) now have access to sustainable and safe drinking water. Further to this result, lessons learnt from the pilot can be scaled up to other rural climate-vulnerable villages, further contributing to reducing the risk of drinking water scarcity caused by climate change and frequent drought conditions.

108 women received direct economic benefits (and 400 indirect) for climate resilient livelihoods, made possible through capacity building, access to finance. As part of this work, climate resilient interventions have been implemented, using various types of renewable energy application: solar power enabled irrigation for horticulture/agriculture, drying, chicken incubation, drinking water, cold storage, aqua culture, herbal processing, sawdust pellet making and the sale renewable energy technology (see [video](#)).

Through UN's support to increase access to electricity and promote sustainable energy solutions, **2,030** people (female 1,020) in five off-grid communities in Ratanakiri province got access to clean energy through solar mini-grids. In addition, around 5,000 farmers now benefit from access to a reliable water supply for irrigation and subsistence farming through solar water pumps.

The UN has been supporting the RGC the building the technical capacity to promote sustainable cooling including development of the **National Cooling Action Plan (NCAP)**. The NCAP integrates energy efficiency, refrigerant transition, access to cooling and climate change strategies. It has also identified pathways to mitigate the associated energy use and GHG emissions from cooling while more sustainably meeting demand. To support its implementation, the [Passive Cooling Strategies for sustainable development in Cambodia](#) has been initiated to support the RGC to implement passive cooling solutions in the building sector, by conducting a review of the sector; the assessment of applicable and available passive cooling strategies; modelling and technical guidance on the integration of passive cooling in a demonstration building; as well as modelling of potential energy and greenhouse gas savings.

Natural Resource Management, Conservation, Preservation and Restoration

The UN has been supporting the RGC to utilize **modern technology for the sustainable forest management and development of agricultural land use maps**. A near real-time innovative open-source monitoring system (System for Earth Observation Data Access, Processing and Analysis for Land Monitoring-SEPAL) was introduced along with capacity building to technical officials to monitor and report on forests and land use. In partnership with Sylva Carbon, the UN supported the RGC to develop a model for high-resolution agricultural land use maps **using Machine Learning with a Neural Network Approach (AI)** in order to improve the accuracy, low-cost activity-data collection, and on-time interpretation of agricultural land use data, which is critical data for policy and strategic decision making.

The UN continued its technical assistance to the RGC to **strengthen Fisheries Conservation and Management**. This contributed to the growth and sustainability of this vital sector for the country not only through improving the protection, restoration and conservation of ecosystems, but also the development of upgraded information management systems, improved reporting on illegal and unregulated fishing, improved functioning of community fishery mechanisms and the management of the **Tonle Sap Biosphere Reserve Ecosystem**.

Relevant authorities at sub-national and national levels have increased their awareness on the **human rights situation of communities living in situations of vulnerability**, including indigenous people and ethnic minorities, in line with the principle of Leave No one Behind (LNOB). Advocacy activities were carried out as well as technical support being provided to a variety of interlocutors, including governmental and non-governmental representatives on issues related to communal land title-process (CLT) for indigenous people.

Pollution Reduction

Air pollution endangers the health of the entire population (16 million people), and conditions have been recently worsening due to by fuel-intensive vehicles and other factors. Air quality monitoring began in 1999 and by 2018 the whole country was able to monitor fine particulate matter (PM2.5) emissions which helped to increase the understanding of the problem's scope, as well as providing evidence for policy formulation. The RGC launched the **country's first Clean Air Plan** (available [here](#)) in 2022 which outlined a package of measures to address the major sources of emissions, and aims to **achieve a 60% reduction in PM2.5, contributing towards SDG 11**. To curb pollution from older vehicles, the plan calls for stronger vehicle emission limits (Euro IV) and restrictions on the age of imported cars in favour of newer, less polluting vehicles that meet stringent standards.

In the water and WASH sector, **23,181** people (of which 4,313 are poor), gained access to basic, safe and climate-resilient water supply. The **capacity and systems of government and private sector stakeholders on climate-resilient water supply service delivery have been strengthened**, with (1) mainstreaming climate risk assessment into both rural/urban water safety plan guidelines and capacity building, (2) completing water safety planning for 15 private piped water supply systems and 5 communes, (3) modelling piped water supply improvements through the expansion of three private piped water supply systems and pro-poor household piped connection subsidies (4) climate proofing of two piped, and nine climate resilient reusable bottled drinking water systems & (5) supporting RGC in field testing the Prakas for the implementation of poor household piped connections. The **public financing strategy for rural water supply** and the national marketing campaign to enhance the uptake of piped supply services are in development.

Sanitation results have been accelerated and scaled up. Three provinces have been declared **Open Defecation Free (ODF)**, benefitting over **2.8 million people** by 2022 with the aim to achieve ODF nationwide by 2025. **Sanitation finance-based approaches** developed and applied in six further target provinces, resulting in **139,749** people including **121,581 women and children** gaining access to basic sanitation services. The **climate-resilient sanitation options for disaster-prone areas** have been applied, resulting in **3,504** people (2,705 ID-poor) gaining access to climate-adapted and safely managed sanitation services. This modelling intervention shows an opportunity to scale up and contribute to rural universal sanitation access by 2025. Hand hygiene messages have been enforced through risk communication, community engagement and social media; hand hygiene supplies were delivered to 0.7 million ID poor family members and factory workers.

Disaster Risk Management

With the UN's support, the National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM) reviewed, updated and disseminated the **national and provincial contingency plans** for floods and conducted flood disaster response exercises in many flood impacted provinces to test the capacity of relevant subnational and local officials in preparing and response to the flood. The simulation aims to activate the contingency plan, PRISM and role and responsibility of the SEC committee.

The UN continued to develop the **Platform for Real-time Impact and Situation Monitoring (PRISM)**, a web-based platform which supports NCDM to rapidly assess climate hazard risks and their impact to inform disaster risk management and social protection programs.

How short cycle agricultural production helps vulnerable households to escape hunger amid the COVID-19 crisis

Imagine one day you lost the job you solely depend on to feed yourself and your family, how is it like? This is what happened to Ot Saven, 38-year-old woman from Romdeng village, Khna Po commune, Sotr Nikum district, Siem Reap province. Though living with a chronic illness, her husband, Ham Sokleang, joined her to work as construction worker. They both need to wake up at 3 a.m. in the morning to prepare food, and get ready for a long traveling to their workplace nearby the city. They also arrive home very late in the evening. During the lockdown, they became unsure what they were going to do to feed the family.

“It [construction work] 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 support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) allowed the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), and local partners to implement a project to help vulnerable family like Saven to escape hunger.

With a strong support of Provincial Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (PDAFF), the project offered trainings to farmers to practice safe, nutrition-sensitive and climate resilient agriculture with emphasis on short cycle agricultural production - vegetables, chicken, fish and frog.

Meanwhile, vulnerable households received a considerable amount of cash transferred by the project to enable them to purchase agricultural inputs and basic assets to start vegetable production, fish and frog raising in plastic tank, and native chicken production.

Thanks to project’s support, Saven received a total of USD 330, which she used to start a vegetable production on approximately 450 square meters right behind her home.

“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 proudly shared that she earned 430 000 Riel (USD 107.5) from the first cycle of her vegetable production after family’s consumption. This has also motivated her to grow vegetable as a business and has also expanded from cultivating yardlong bean, eggplant, morning glory, and choi sum to including a few other vegetables such as corn and cucumber.

“As a woman, I find cultivating vegetables at home is easy. The support from the project allowed me to install 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.”

With a big smile on her face, Saven continued that, “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 vegetable growing business and stop working as a construction worker.”

She added that her husband will keep working as construction worker, but he will join the works offer inside the community.

Saven also received close to USD 80 through joining the project’s first cash-for-work activity, which was to rehabilitate a tertiary canal in her commune, allowing her to cover the medicines of her husband. In addition, as an IDPoor household, Saven’s family benefits from the Government’s cash transfer programme. The cash her family receives regularly combined with the project supports helps relieve her family hardship during the pandemic.

From the same village, Seap Sak, 48 years old, is a person with disability relying mainly on remittance from his children, who are migrant workers in Thailand, to ensure survival of the six members in the family.

However, because of the COVID-19 outbreak, his children did not have secured job and thus could not send money home as before. Luckily, Sak's family received USD 60 from the Government's cash transfer programme to support families holding ID Poor card to meet their immediate needs. Part of the amount Sak uses to pay for his family's monthly loan.

Prior to the support from the Project, he stated he himself had reduced daily intake since he wanted to keep it for other small children in the family.

Since he cannot perform any heavy work, he decided to raise fish (catfish) with support of the project.

"After two-month and 15 days, I could harvest the fish. I've kept the fish for my family consumption, and my wife has prepared yummy meal with fish several times a week. It did reduce our spend 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."

Sak did not harvest the fish at once to sell at market, as ensuring family's consumption is his priority. But he often sells it to those villagers who want his fish in USD 2.5 per Kilogram. Some of his nearby villagers also showed their interest to replicate his practice. By the time that we talked to Sak, he already prepared his plastic tank to raise the next cycle of fish production.

As a part of the project interventions emphasizing on short cycle agricultural production, the project supports 1 000 vulnerable households like Sak and Saven between January 2021 and July 2022 in two provinces of Cambodia: Siem Reap and Banteay Meanchey. The project uses CASH+ approach by providing complementary interventions (productive assets, inputs, technical training, and extension services) to the government cash transfer programme to protect the livelihoods of the poor and vulnerable households during the pandemic while strengthening their productive capacities to the future shocks.

Draft



Outcome 4 - Strengthening Participation and Accountability

By 2023, women and men, including those under-represented, marginalised and vulnerable, benefit from more transparent and accountable legislative and governance frameworks that ensure meaningful and informed participation in economic and social development and political processes.

Key Results of the UN Contribution towards Strengthening Participation and Accountability

Civic Participation in Development and Decision-Making

The UN continued working on the promotion and protection of civic space, strengthening monitoring activities; and building public recognition of the role of participation. It continued working closely with civic space actors, journalists, community activists, human rights defenders, among others, to provide support on capacity building for non-governmental organisations.

The UN created a **safe space for dialogue** between Government, the judiciary, security forces, civil society organizations and the media to strengthen the legislative framework and programmes, and to guarantee freedom of expression and access to information. This was achieved through high-level forums, dialogues and National Media Development Conference.

In line with the United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists a **media support desk** was created for the safety of journalists and to provide legal assistance to reporters and human rights defenders in need. A media development and freedom of expression working group to harmonize and maximize the impact of interventions and a coalition of civil society organizations were created. In addition, the UN also **built the capacities of key ministries on Human Rights Standards**, for the development and amendment of legislation related to Freedom of Expression and Access to Information.

Through “My journey” App, as well as campaigns using social media and public forum, 1,726 audiences have been able to access information related to women migrants’ rights, safe migration, and services provided in cases of gender-based violence at country of origin and destination.

The UN built capacity of **252 local service providers** from government and non-government agencies including Migrant Resource Centres, employers and trade unions on fair recruitment practices, labour migration governance framework, policy, and international labour standard.

Public Institution Functioning

The UN supported the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) on the **Criminal Case Database**, which tracks case progression through the justice system. The database aims to increase transparency and efficiency in the courts, and to avoid excessive periods of pre-trial detention and delayed release after the completion of sentences. As of 2022, **seventeen courts of first instance** are connected to a central server as well as all courts of appeal.

The UN also supported digitalize and innovative actions toward realizing the full potential of adolescents and youth and to accelerate the **National Commitments to the Nairobi Summit** (ICPD25) and UNDAF Youth Accelerator through establishing a mobile app to educate youth on **Comprehensive**

Sexuality Education. As of the end of 2022, **7,773 people** (3,147 young people) assessed the Mobile App.

The UN provided technical assistance to the Royal Government of Cambodia on the development of the 2023–2025 **National Action Plan** (NAP) to implement the 2017 ASEAN Consensus on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers and contributed to the ASEAN Declaration on portability of social security benefits for migrant workers. The complaints mechanism for migrant workers was also reinforced through the development of a Policy Brief that was subsequently adopted by the MOLVT.

The **Provincial Committee for Counter Trafficking-in-Persons** in Kampong Cham, Prey Veng, Kampot and Battambang received support from the UN to strengthen national and local capacities which has reached eighty-six labour and governmental officials. The capacity building focused on fair recruitment practices, the national regulatory framework on fair and ethical recruitment, the Government sub-decree 190, ministerial orders, and policy on labour migration as well as the Code of Conduct for Cambodian recruitment agencies. It resulted in the development and implementation of an action plan for the Labour Migration Policy, and the Provincial action plan on migration and trafficking in person.

The Cambodia National Council for Women (CNCW) and the National Centre for Peacekeeping Force, Mine and ERW Clearance (NPMEC), with UN technical support continued to integrate the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) Concluding Observations into its actions for advancing gender equality and women's empowerment. Subsequently, the NPMEC has taken a critical step to build institutional understanding and knowledge related to gender barriers to the deployment of uniformed women to United Nations Peace Operations.

The UN has also supported line ministries of the Royal Government of Cambodia in developing and implementing policy, strategy, framework, action plan for examples:

- Supporting MOEYS to develop **National Action Plan on Cambodian Youth Development** (NAP-CYD 2022-2026), a 10-year **National Action Plan on School Health** (2021-2030), **Monitoring and Evaluation Framework** for NAP-CYD 2022-2026; **Standards Operational Procedure on School Health Promotion** (SOP-SHP) 2022; **Out of School Comprehensive Sexuality Education** (CSE) Strategic Plan 2022-2026; **National Guideline on Youth Debate 2022**; Health Education and Comprehensive Sexuality Education textbooks and training manual for pre-service students.
- Supporting Ministry of Mine and Energy (MME) in the development and implementation of a **gender mainstreaming strategic plan for the mine, energy, and oil sector**, particularly in the climate change aspect of the plan.
- Supporting Ministry of Post and Telecommunications to develop a **Media, Information and Literacy Competency framework** for the National Digital Economy and Society Framework.

Implementation and Monitoring of Laws and Standards

The UN continue providing technical support to bring the legal framework into compliance with international human rights norms and standards. In that regard, the UN continued engaging with the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Justice, among other partners to encourage further consultations with civil society on proposed amendments to relevant laws and policies. For instance, on the **Draft law on the establishment of a National Human Rights Institution**, the **Draft law on the establishment of a National Committee against Torture**, or on proposed amendments to the **Law on Associations and Non-Governmental Organizations**. A constructive engagement with authorities is

allowing to strengthen the dialogue and discussion on specific human rights issues and find adequate remedies.

The UN has been further promoting the rights of persons with disabilities and advocating for their access to justice in line with international human rights law and the principle of leaving no one behind (LNOB). The UN is working with Disability Action Council (DAC) to support the process of developing a **new draft law on the rights of persons with disabilities**. It is also contributing with DAC on the elaboration of the Report on the implementation of the Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities (CRDP). The cooperation is a component of a joint project from the United Nations Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRDP) implemented by UNDP, UNESCO, ILO and OHCHR.

The UN has supported the Ministry of Social Affairs Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation to develop a **Child Protection Law**, which was submitted to the Council of Jurist for revision in December 2022.

Efforts were made in the implementation of the diversion measures and other non-custodial measures stipulated in the Juvenile Justice Law, which 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 in 2022, showing a commitment of the justice sector to implement the law and uphold the rights of children in conflict with the law as per international standards.

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

Gender Based Violence (GBV) and Violence Against Children (VAC)

The proportion of women and girls aged between 15-49 who experienced physical, sexual and/or emotional violence by their intimate partners in the past 12 months has **decreased from 19.6% in 2014 to 13% in 2021**. The UN has contributed to this achievement through technical and financial support for the development and implementation of legal and policy frameworks, capacity building of the government and CSO stakeholders as well as the continued awareness campaigns, particularly the annual 16-Days of Activism against GBV campaign.

The UN has been **strengthening mechanisms to respond to gender-based violence**, setting up safe spaces for gender-based violence survivors and supporting capacity development for service providers to strengthen gender-based violence services, including women migrant workers. Sixty government service providers (36 female) from different line ministries and institutions, have participated in training and discussions on the topic on violence against women migrants, delivering coordinated quality services and management of cases on women migrant workers, including the case registration form and administrative violence against women data.

To advocate the government for increased financing, the UN has enhanced MOWA's capacity and confidence in mobilising and coaching the TWGG-GBV members to contribute to the implementation of the 3rd NAPVAW through the development of the **Annual Operation Plans (AOPs)**. In 2022, 18 Annual Operation Plans of which 12 from line ministries/institutions have been developed with the estimated budget allocation of around 1.3 million USD.

The UN has **supported the government to enable the health facilities to provide health sector response** to GBV survivors. By the end 2022, 44.50% (8 referral hospitals out of 18 target facilities) in

eight priority provinces are capable of providing health sector response to GBV/VAW. 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 **has been enhanced**. As a result, in 2022, 322 cases (104 cases of domestic violence and 218 cases of rape) were assisted, accessing to counseling and legal services.

In order to meet the mental health needs of the GBV survivors and vulnerable women and children, the UN has supported the Ministry of Women's Affairs and Child Helpline Cambodia (CHC) a local NGO, to provide **counseling and referrals through their helplines**. In 2022, 144 out of 146 cases reported via MOWA helpline are gender-based violence (GBV). In addition, through partnership with Transcultural Psychosocial Organization (TPO), a local NGO and CHC, 16,300 children (8,002 girls), 419 gender undisclosed children, and 13,478 youth and adults (6,657 females) received professional counseling and MHPSS services.

To promote awareness on gender, GBV and harassment at the workplaces, the UN continued to disseminate and share information on the Gender Based Violence and Harassment (GBVH) guidelines for the garment sector. In addition, several capacity building interventions were also provided to key government counterparts to raise awareness on GBV and harassment.

To raise awareness on violence against migrant workers, social and mass media public awareness and community outreach campaign to promote positive attitude toward women migrant workers, safe migration, risks of trafficking and violence against women as well service information have reached out to **538,739** social media audiences, and 1,436 community members.

The UN supported MOWA to conduct **16-Days Campaign** in 2022 to increase awareness of GBV and provide information about GBV support and available services for women and girls, specifically those who are hard to reach. Around **7,150** people participated in the event. This event was also live streamed on UN's, MoWA's, and UNYAP's Facebook pages, reaching over 12,000 people. In addition, with UN support, four provinces organized 10 physical events reaching 1,728 people (988 females).

As part of the capacity building to address Violence Against Children (VAC), the UN strengthened the capacity of **2,915 social service workforce** (>50% female) through training, mentoring and coaching on case management and referral. They were able to address the needs of **15,987** children who experienced violence. Meanwhile, the UN continued to work with MoSVY and Friends International to provide support and coaching to district social workers through joint case collaboration and co-case management in 27 target districts, benefiting around 1500 children and youth (790 female).

In addition, the UN supported the Ministry of Health for capacity building on the **VAC and sexual abuse Clinical Handbook** to medical practitioners. In 2022, 126 health practitioners (85 female) were trained to strengthen the referral pathway and to provide care which resulted in 207 children who had experienced violence and abuse being cared for. The UN also supported the Bar Association of the Kingdom of Cambodia (BAKC)²² and the 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.

Strengthening of National Statistical System and Capacity

The UN in Cambodia is supporting the Royal Government of Cambodia, specifically the National Institute of Statistics (NIS) of the Ministry of Planning as well as line ministries to improve availability and utilization of data to better link planning and budgeting processes.

²² BAKC brings together all practicing lawyers. Its Legal Aid Department (LAD) offers attorney representation to low-income clients

The UN has supported the implementation of the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) and SDG monitoring and reporting, which includes the **support to the national census, inter-census**, and major surveys such as the **Cambodia Socio-Economic Survey (CSES)**, the **Agriculture Survey**, and the **Cambodia Demographic and Health Survey (CDHS)**, as well as setting up the **National Development/SDGs Indicators Reporting Platform/Data Exchange (CAMSTAT)**, including a **CSDG/SDG tracking portal**. The UN has also taken a leadership role in coordinating among stakeholders to provide technical support and capacity development to the government to produce in-depth data analyses of the 2019 census on Fertility and Nuptiality; Mortality and Maternal Mortality; Literacy and Educational Attainment; and Population Projection.

To close the data gap the UN has **supported NIS and MOWA on alternative data solutions with the focus on “big data”**. For example, the UN also supported the Ministry of Women Affairs to undertake a study on “Violence against women trends and help seeking behaviour” using “big data”; supported NIS using big data to measure the nexus between environment and gender. The Ministry of Women’s Affairs (MoWA) with the UN support has significantly contributed to better uses and production of gender and climate change and disaster-related statistics.

Based on data and evidence from the 2019 General Population Census and National Surveys, key indicators have been used and integrated into the final report of the Mid-Term Review of the NSDP 2019–2023, and key Cambodia Sustainable Development Goals’ indicators and targets with technical assistance from the UN.

Draft

Hotlines help victims of abuse find their voice

Anonymous reporting hotlines give victims of online child sexual exploitation and abuse a way to speak out and seek help from essential support services

By Lloyd Cristyn Elisabeth

Towards the end of 2020, 17-year-old high school student Sothy* and Grade 11 student Thyda* both received friend requests on Facebook from profiles they didn't recognise. They had been studying online at the time, and like so many young people around the world whose schools were closed because of the pandemic, had been spending more and more of their free 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 they both decided to end things, the men became angry, and the couples had heated arguments before Thyda and Sothy cut off contact completely.

This was just the beginning of their ordeal.

Thyda and Phearun continued to message the girls under different Facebook profiles. They threatened, in the girls' words, to "sue" them for the insulting language they had used while they had been arguing if they did not film and send a naked video of themselves. Promised it would not be shared publicly, they reluctantly agreed, terrified of what would happen if they said no. Even after they tried to block the second accounts, desperate not to be contacted again, new profiles kept appearing and demanding more videos.

When Thyda eventually refused to send more, a screenshot from a previous video was shared on Facebook and to a Telegram group with around 30,000 members. When Sothy also finally decided to stop, she realised her picture had ended up on social media after it was shown to her by a friend.

"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."

Sothy eventually contacted a reporting hotline run by UNICEF partner APLE after coming across a video on their Facebook page. After receiving a full account of what had happened, APLE gave her legal advice and connected her with their social workers, who told her that the decision to seek help was the right one. Encouraged by the trust she had built with the case workers, she eventually agreed to tell her parents, who were angry at first but eventually understood that Sothy was not at fault. They filed a complaint with the Anti-Human Trafficking and Juvenile Protection police in Siem Reap, and Sothy was referred by APLE to a specialised 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."

"In the beginning, both survivors were severely traumatised, fearing that their abuser would distribute their images online," said Him Sophorn, the social worker connected to Sothy and Thydas' cases. "They were hesitant to tell anybody about the abuse. It was haunting. They kept looking at their phone and spent more time online. After several counselling sessions, they became more confident and started to interact with services. When they were 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 in Siem Reap, who worked with the provincial court to pursue the investigation against Phearun. He was eventually sentenced to two and half 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 to 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 she is confident that she knows 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

Draft



Outcome 5 - Managing Urbanization

By 2023, all women and men living in urban areas, including those marginalized and vulnerable, enjoy a safer, more secure and healthier life, utilizing quality public and private services, and benefiting from improved urban governance informed by their voice and participation.

Key Results of the UN Contribution towards Managing Urbanization

Protection of Vulnerable Groups in Urban Environments

The UN achieved improved employability of migrants and vulnerable groups in urban areas, through skill training activities, job matching, and the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL). Supporting the National Employment Agency (NEA), the UN contributed to leveraging information on job opportunities for job seekers, especially returning migrant workers, and to raising awareness on job matching platforms, in collaboration with job centers, TVET skill providers, and local authorities, reaching 1,019 participants (502 female).

The UN also promoted better working conditions for migrants through labor rights training activities and the promotion of fair recruitment practices in partnership with the Association of Cambodian Recruitment Agencies (ACRA) and the Manpower Association of Cambodia (MAC) for the implementation of the Cambodia Code of Conduct for Private Recruitment Agencies (COC).

In order to support migrants on different aspects of their journey and facilitate their integration into urban areas and access to services, the UN also continued to provide migration counseling services through the Migrant Resource Centers in Battambang, Kampong Cham, Prey Veng, and Kampot reaching 2,470 prospective migrant workers and returnees.

As part of the COVID-19 response, the UN supported the Royal Government of Cambodia in providing prevention and vaccination services to migrants, and vulnerable groups left behind in hard-to-reach urban communities and border areas. Thus, through a targeting screening, 7,100 people who either missed out or had incomplete vaccination doses were identified in 2022.

Furthermore, the UN supported the National Center for HIV/AIDS, Dermatology and Sexually Transmitted Diseases (NCHADS) to ensure that key populations were reached with HIV services through equitable, innovative, and differentiated combination of HIV prevention and testing approaches. As a result, a total of 51,442 key populations [Female Entertainment Workers (FEW), Men who have Sex with Men (MSM), Transgender women (TG), and People Who Inject Drugs (PWID)] were reached between January and November 2022 with prevention services in the 3 key provinces of Phnom Penh, Battambang, and Siem Reap, and in which 87% of key populations were tested for HIV and over 99% of 1,231 confirmed HIV positive key populations were enrolled in HIV treatment. Moreover, to mitigate potential service disruptions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, multi-month ART dispensing (MMD) of antiretroviral therapy (ART) was scaled up across all ART sites. These resulted in 76.7% national MMD coverage by September 2022.

The UN also contributed to the roll-out and scale-up of innovative HIV testing and bio-medical prevention approaches. In particular, the scale-up of Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) to a total of 21 sites in 11 provinces, reached and enrolled 7,211 people by December 2022, of which 80% accessed it in the 3 key provinces of Phnom Penh, Battambang, and Siem Reap.

Management and Coordination of Urban Services

In 2022, the UN enhanced the capacities of sub-national administrations and relevant stakeholders to promote public participation in the management of sewerage and wastewater treatment systems in Cambodia, fostering the development of infrastructure, urbanization, and sustainable national economic development, through the development of the **“Guideline on Public Participation Promotion on Wastewater Management Services at the Sub-national Level”**. The UN supported capacity building and awareness raising on solid waste and resilient house construction techniques in the urban communities of Kep and Preah Sihanouk Provinces.

In addition, the UN contributed to green building in poor urban communities in Sihanoukville, where a total of 186 households (881 people) have been supported directly through cooking stoves, home solar, and fan solar options, while approximately 10,000 people in the communities and vicinity, especially children and women, benefited from street solar and solid waste management (community clean-up and waste receptacles).

The UN also provided capacity development and coaching on sub-national planning and budgeting for social services, that benefit children, adolescents, and women in all 25 capital and provincial administrations. Moreover, the UN initiated the formulation of the **Social Service Implementation Manual in Urban Setting (SSIMU)** to support communes and sangkats in urban settings across the country in implementing social service activities more effectively and equitably – starting from situation analysis through digitalized process, prioritizing issues, planning and budgeting, implementation, monitoring, and reporting.

The UN also supported the recovery of the heritage and tourism sectors in Siem Reap, through cash-for-work schemes for the communities living in Angkor and training opportunities for tourism professionals, to adopt sustainable approaches for stronger and more resilient businesses.

In 2022, the UN continued monitoring and documenting the situation of communities living in resettlements sites and people suffering from eviction and other violations related to the rights to adequate housing, in Cambodia to advocate for their social and economic rights.

Legal and Policy Frameworks for Urbanization

The UN supported the Royal Government of Cambodia in the development of a ten-year **National Strategic Plan (NSP) for Migrant Health (2022-2030)**. This policy is a key instrument to facilitate the support of migrants in accessing health services targeting the most vulnerable, including those in urban areas, and contributing to leaving no one behind.

The UN coordinated a range of discussions with interest groups (among which 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** which is focused on the leave no one behind and people-centered principles.

Finally, the UN also contributed to reinforcing disaster risk preparedness in Angkor through the identification of major risks to the World Heritage property and the development of a Resilience Plan including concrete measures and recommendations to protect the values of the site and foster the socio-economic livelihoods of local communities.

Evaluations and Lesson Learned

The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) had commissioned an independent team to evaluate the UNDAF 2019-2023 which aims to:

- Provide a transparent and participatory platform for learning and dialogue with stakeholders about what worked, what did not work and why in delivery of the UNDAF's outcomes. The evaluation will provide important information for strengthening programming and results at the country level, specifically informing the planning and decision-making for the new UNSDCF (2024-2028) and for improving UN coordination at the country level.
- Support greater accountability of the UNCT to UNDAF stakeholders.

Below are key highlights of findings/conclusions and recommendations.

Relevance and adaptability

- **The UNDAF strategic priorities were well aligned with the main national policies and priorities:** the National Strategic Development Plan (2019-2023) and the Cambodia Sustainable Development Goals (CSDGs) 2016-2030.
- **The UNCT has been very resilient, responsive and strategic in its implementation of the UNDAF,** addressing emerging and emergency needs, including with the humanitarian response to the COVID-19 pandemic that affected especially the most vulnerable, disadvantaged and marginalized groups. The UNCT developed the Socio-Economic Response Framework (SERF) to respond to the pandemic and repurpose some resources and interventions in a collaborative and coordinated manner to support the most disadvantaged population.

Effectiveness

- The contributions of UN agencies, particularly through technical assistance, have remained fundamental in facilitating progress towards national objectives and CSDGs. **There is progress across all five UNDAF outcomes.**
- The country's resilience and speed of recovery from the pandemic is partly attributable to the strategic coordination, facilitation and service delivery provided in cooperation with national institutions and development partners.
- **Implementation of the UNDAF has contributed to major institutional and legislative changes,** across virtually all areas of development, targeting the most vulnerable and remote populations.
- **UN agencies work has minimized the disruption** in access to health/education services and sustained livelihoods through aiding management of the health response and policies to support individuals and the economy, and facilitation of recovery.
- UN agencies have contributed to strategic thinking on increased competitiveness, innovation and a green, inclusive economy, but its role remains small compared to needs in these sectors.
- Concerted efforts between the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC), the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) and other partners is needed to sustain growth and a resilient economy, along with the integration of industrial, agriculture, environment and climate change, and sustainable urban development. Further support is needed for the implementation of legal and strategic frameworks, including at the subnational level.
- Effectiveness has been undermined by a shortfall in funding, in particular in areas such as urbanisation and access to services, and a concentration of resources in COVID-19-centred interventions.

Efficiency

- **The UNCT prioritized activities based on the needs rather than on the availability of resources,** and reallocated resources according to the collective priorities and changing needs.
- **Limited funding and competing agency priorities has hampered a systematic and integrated approach to development.**

- The UN agencies were able to **leverage government and non-government capacities** to pursue development initiatives across multiple areas, ranging from social protection, economic inclusion and environmental sustainability. The United Nations Resident Coordinator (UNRC) has played an effective role, in leveraging leadership and the diverse expertise of the UN, and fostering strategic partnerships with development partners.
- The UNDAF does not have an **explicit financing or resource mobilization strategy**, and an **integrated funding framework** has not been established, which has limited incentives for joint programming, and the potential to leverage work under joint programmes to maximise outcomes.

Coherence

- The UNCT and UNRC **collaborated with the Government, international organizations, non-profit organizations, academic institutions, and the private sector**. However, the evaluation identified **gaps and difficulties** in relation to the strategic and coordinated engagement with these partners. For example, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) believe that **UN agencies do not properly support them**, particularly when they tackle important issues like human rights.
- **Strengthened long-term partnerships with stakeholders** would enhance the UNDAF's coherence.

Coordination

- The **work performed by the Results Groups is demanding and lacks additional resources**, limiting the ambitions of the UN reform.
- UN agencies have strengthened their coordination through 11 Joint Programmes (JP), which is a significant improvement with respect to the previous two UNDAF cycles. However, these JPs are rather resource-driven, taking advantage of funding opportunities. While more evidence would be needed regarding the connectedness within JPs, cooperation and synergy between agencies is sometimes limited.
- The UNDAF **coordination structure did not contribute much to ensure ownership and engagement by national counterparts**. The engagement with the government was mainly undertaken at the Resident Coordinator level, and less at Result Groups' level.
- A **collective engagement** on the UNDAF between the government and the UNCT is required under the reform process.

Sustainability

- UN agencies development of longstanding strategic partnership and the trusting relationship with the government are important enabling factors to generate meaningful change through the UNDAF.
- The **alignment of the UNDAF strategic priorities with national objectives** and the continuous harmonization at the higher policy/sectoral levels ensure some Government ownership and investment in desired outcomes, which are key prerequisites for sustainability. However, innovation and change often require time and resources and sustainability prospects increase where the 4 UN's interventions are scaled up over more than one UNDAF cycle and where the sector's vision and capacities are more mature.
- The UNCT should **intensify its convening and capacitating role** for rights-holders and their representatives to ensure a critical mass of demand for civic space and accountability.

Human Rights-based Approach

- The UNCT has used the UNDAF to contribute to the mainstreaming of the programming principle on the Human Rights-Based Approach.
- A significant body of work has been undertaken, with the UNCT Human Rights Strategy, namely:
 - i) the 2021 UNCT Retreat on Human Rights in the challenging context of the COVID-19 pandemic,

ii) the Human Rights Markers, data and indicators, iii) the follow-up to the key observations and recommendations of the Universal Periodic Review and human rights mechanisms.

Gender Equality and Women Empowerment

- The Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) principle was proactively mainstreamed through the UNDAF implementation, supported by a number of key exercises, such as the Gender Equality Scorecard Exercise, which found 45.5 percent of indicators to be gender sensitive, and monitored the advancement of GEWE. Three of the six Joint Programmes (existing at the time of the Scorecard) clearly mainstreamed gender and now, there is now a . A recent JP focuses on credit guarantees for women's enterprises.
- The UNCT encouraged the participation of CSOs and women's rights advocates in the implementation of the UNDAF, in particular: joint initiatives, the CCA process, high-level visits and events, awareness raising campaigns, and UN agencies' programmes.
- However, The Gender Thematic Group (GTG) lacks dedicated financial resources to carry out its yearly work plan, and is reliant on agencies' in-kind contributions, the majority of which are supported by the RC Office.

Recommendations:

1. The UNCT and Government should ensure that the next UNSDCF is based on the new guidelines for developing a Cooperation Framework to improve the design, conception and usefulness of the instrument to capture a shared vision and mission in the context of the SDGs.
2. The UNCT should encourage and enhance Government participation in the strategic management of the next UNSDCF.
3. The UNCT should develop partnership strategies to more effectively engage CSOs, the private sector, academia and development partners to encourage more deliberate and systematic engagement with these actors to enhance UNSDCF effectiveness.
4. The UNCT should capitalize on the comparative expertise and resources of implementing UN Agencies to strengthen joint programming, reduce duplication of efforts, and implement targeted joint programmes, to reach higher level results.
5. The UNCT should strengthen its strategic positioning through the next UNSDCF by pursuing the efforts made on strategic thinking and designing the UNSDCF in a manner that facilitates integration across sectors.
6. UN agencies should increase their cooperation through the Results and Theme Groups and use them to help the UNCT to strategically manage the UNSDCF, with the RC/UNCT leadership.
7. The UNCT, under the leadership of the RC, should ensure greater mainstreaming of the UNSDCF guiding principles on Leave No One Behind and the Human Rights-Based Approach.
8. The UNCT, under leadership of the RC, should ensure a greater mainstreaming of the UNSDCF guiding principle on gender equality and women's empowerment.
9. The UNCT and the Government should contemplate creating an integrated funding framework in the next UNSDCF, and adequate funding instruments to ensure the scale of impact necessary for attaining the 2030 Agenda.

Support to Partnerships and Financing the 2030 Agenda

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development emphasizes partnerships as a critical vehicle in advancing the 2030 Agenda and its 17 SDGs. At the country level, multi-stakeholder partnerships were forged through individual UN agency programmes and a number of UN joint programmes.

In 2022, the UN in Cambodia supported the RGC in partnerships and financing the 2030 Agenda by creating multi-stakeholder platforms for engagement; in supporting strategy development and planning; and in facilitating partnership engagement.

Creating multi-stakeholder platforms for engagement

In 2022, together with the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth, the UN in Cambodia launched the “Cambodia Futures Lab”, a 6-month Learning Journey to co-create pathways for a prosperous, inclusive, and innovative Cambodia through the whole of government and whole of society approaches. The Cambodia Futures Lab strengthened leadership, strategic foresight and systems-thinking capabilities in leaders across all sectors of Cambodia. It also created opportunities for cross-sector collaboration and experimentation among leaders in government, the private sector and civil society during the post-Covid-19 pandemic recovery. The Cambodia Futures Lab offered leaders a platform to define what type of systems transformation can be applied to the Kingdom using innovation and strategic foresight into the Covid-19 recovery efforts in order to accelerate progress on the 2030 agenda.

The reform of the UN development system places a greater emphasis on joint programming and joint programmes. The UN in Cambodia implemented 10 joint programmes with a total budget of over \$13 million in 2022.

With the Joint Programme for Social Protection, the UN in Cambodia provided extensive support to the RGC throughout the process of strengthening its social protection system. Specifically, through the UNJP, the UN in Cambodia supported the government in the implementation of the National Social Protection Policy Framework (NSPPF) 2016-2025. As part of the Joint Programme, the Social Policy Week gathered policymakers and key stakeholders from all areas of social protection to meet and discuss the past, present, and future development for social protection in the country.

The UN in Cambodia also supported response and strengthening national capacity to respond to the negative impacts of the 5F crisis (food, feed, fuel, fertilizer and finance) on Cambodia’s economy, particularly in the agricultural sector and for the poorest and most vulnerable. The UN in Cambodia established and strengthened tools for data collection, analysis and forecasting with a particular emphasis on macro and socio-economic variables, the agricultural sector’s productivity, food prices and markets functionality and household livelihoods, food security and nutrition. With this effective monitoring and reporting mechanism in place, the ultimate goal was to provide timely analysis and recommendations to the RGC and development partners as a means to support better policy responses and to prioritize the use of the limited national budget resources for supporting recovery and social assistance measures for the most vulnerable.

UN has supported the Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF), providing technical support to the regulatory framework governing SDG financing. As a result, government planning has become more responsive to catalyze blended financing in support of the 2030 Agenda by identifying investment opportunities in priority sectors that have strong financial viability and potential to scale-up impact for development. Under this partnership, a Credit Guarantee Scheme was also rolled out to facilitate access to loan financing for women-owned businesses that are affected by Covid-19.

Partnerships forged with the private sector and the government remain central to the success of BEEP and Factory Literacy Programmes (FLP). For FLP, the strategic partnership with Textile, Apparel,

Footwear & Travel Goods Association in Cambodia (TAFTAC) and Cambodian Garment Training Institute (CGTI) has contributed to the expansion of FLP by leveraging TAFTAC's network of factories to promote and engage factories to join the programme. UN continues to mobilize strong support from the private sector for the implementation of FLP – garment factories in FLP provide in-kind and financial support, such as dedicated learning spaces for literacy classes, and paid wages for the time away to join classes.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) framework with Credit Guarantee Corporate Cambodia (CGCC) was signed to financially support the biogas technology and information center, and 1 test project received a loan under the MOU. With Khmer Enterprise, UN established a national incubation center on IDEA app, an entrepreneurship incubation platform. UN established collaboration with MISTI to promote Food safety for better market access.

To promote business formalizing, financing and marketing, UN utilized government services in Business and Skill Innovation event/platform, such as Techo Startup Center for online business registration, MoC for E-commerce, Skill Development Fund for SMEs, and Food Safety and Standard of MISTI. Cambodia Microfinance Association jointly supports new businesses and SMEs in the event to educate businesses on better access to finance.

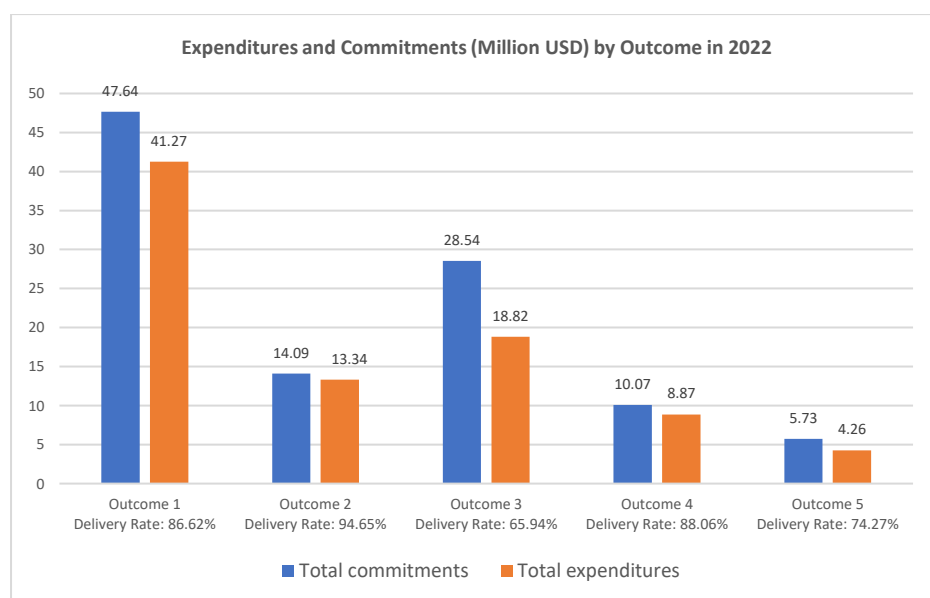
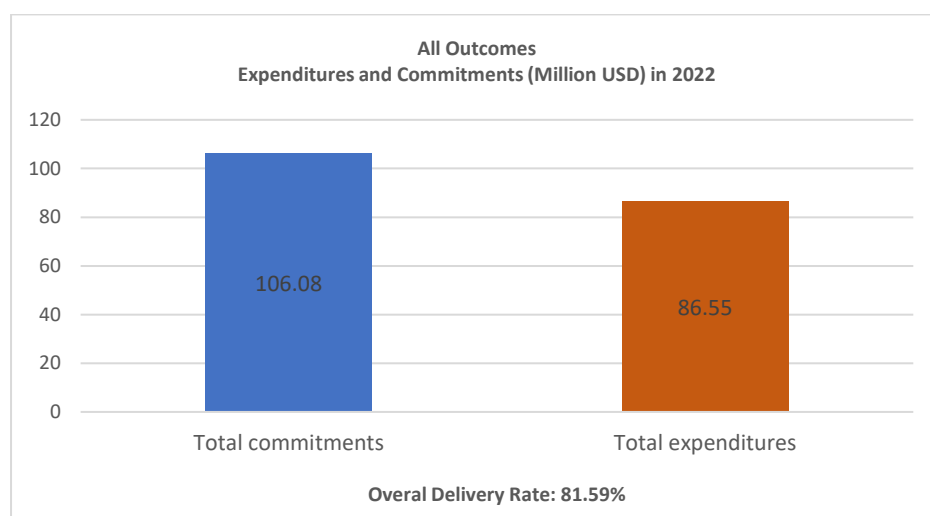
Supporting strategy development and planning

Over the course of the year, the UN in Cambodia held policy discussions with development partners to address the growing challenges of sustainable financing to advance the 2030 Agenda. This included, for example, the EU – UN Dialogue concentrating on New Frontiers for Sustainable Development in Cambodia. The discussion during the event included exchange on the state of play of the 2030 Agenda in Cambodia, analysis of global trends in sustainable financing and discussion on ways to leverage investments for sustainable development in Cambodia.

The Development Partners Forum is a key coordination and partnership forum between development partners in Cambodia. In an effort to make the Development Partners Forum more strategic, a restructuring of the Forum commenced in 2022. Technical Working Groups facilitate aid coordination activities within sectors such as Public Financial Management, Health, Social Protection, Food Security and Nutrition and Gender.

The Humanitarian Response Forum (HRF), which is primarily focused on emergency preparedness and humanitarian response to main hazards such as floods, droughts and storms, ensures sound coordination and communication between the UN, international NGOs and international organizations. In July 2022, the HRF organized a Foresight Exercise which consisted of four processes: The 'Horizon Scanning' online survey was circulated to HRF members in May to collect inputs on future risks in Cambodia. Two workshops were then organized, the first workshop on 'Future Risk Landscape' and the second workshop on 'Preparedness for Future Risks'. Based on the outcomes, a set of recommendations was developed proposing specific updates to the HRF contingency plan.

Financial Overview and Resource Mobilization (To be updated with RG3)



Outcome 1: Expanding Social Opportunities

Health

- Increase UN engagement with private sector in health ensuring public health objectives are furthered including UHC
- Further build integrated people centered health service delivery particularly at primary care levels (including communities) drawing on lessons of what worked and what did not in UN supported efforts to date.
- Continued and build on cross UN agency collaboration to maximize benefits from multi-sector approaches to achieve health including addressing the social determinants of health
- Enhance equity in health including a focus on financial protection and using disaggregated data and information to support reaching those at most risk of being left behind.
- Strengthen inter-sector regional cooperation on health security and address the health impacts of mobility to enhance preparedness, response and resilience to the range of public health threats.

Education

- Support the development of the new Education Strategic Plan 2024 – 2028 based on the SDG 4 Mid-term Review and Cambodia's National Statement of Commitment at the Transforming Education Summit, together with finalization of relevant policy documents including the Cambodia Digital Education Strategy, the National Action Plan on Inclusive Education 2024-2028 and the Teacher Policy Action Plan (TPAP) 2023-2030.
- Support the MoEYS in advancing teacher development, through the progressive roll out and development of the national CPD and HRMIS systems, including increasing the supply of CPD providers and offerings, strengthened system capabilities and interoperability with other information systems, and enhancing data for improved educational planning and management; Continue support for Teacher Educator Development based on the TPAP 2023-2030 including the development of credit-based pre-service teacher training curriculum framework and teacher educator professional standards and finalization and delivery of 11 blended in-service training courses for teacher educators.
- Support the MoEYS to raise the quality of primary education by scaling up the implementation of the national early grade learning programme, including the roll out of early grade learning materials packages, teacher training, and strengthening the early grade school-based mentoring programme for robust and effective professional support to teachers, and developing and implementing a national continuous performance-based classroom assessment system to better identify and meet the learning needs of their students for improved student learning outcomes, and ensuring that girls have access to comprehensive sexuality education through the school health room programme.

Nutrition

- Enhancing national and sub-national capacities to deliver effective nutrition-specific interventions, including:
 - Prevention and treatment of child wasting through promotion of positive infant and young child feeding practices, support to frontline health workers including health center staff and village health support groups (VHSGs), and updating the national guidelines on the management of acute malnutrition.

- Promoting maternal nutrition, and reduction of low birth weight, to break the intergenerational cycle of malnutrition.
- Advocating for inclusion of interventions to address overweight and obesity in the new Fast Track Roadmap for Improving Nutrition, to reduce future risk of NCDs (given the trend of increasing prevalence of overweight/obesity in children under five).
- Building supply and demand for healthy diets and positive nutrition practices through social behavior change (SBC) interventions and targeted value chain support for nutritious commodities such as fortified rice.
- Strengthening nutrition sensitive social protection including enhancing cash transfers for PLWHIV and children under 2 from vulnerable households.

Social protection and assistance

- Continue provision of the support for the SP Policy, legislation and programme design across the three areas of social protection, - social assistance, social security and social health protection, with focus on pillar's integration, expansion of scope and coverage taking the life-cycle and shock-responsive approaches, in both social assistance and social security within the context of economic recovery and formalization processes and the development of the new NSPPF, with added focus on child and gender-sensitive SP, disability inclusion and family-friendly policies.
- Continue system strengthening, including digitalization of the delivery and M&E systems in SP, with added focus on strengthening the establishment, institutionalization and capacity building of the human resources and delivery tools at all levels of administration.
- Continue focus on especially vulnerable and at-risk groups and their inclusion and coverage by SP, following the LNOB principles and the UN-commissioned LNOB study to inform its future engagement in Cambodia.
- Continue advocacy and evidence generation for expansion of the SP, including its financing and evaluation of impacts.

Outcome 2: Expanding Economic Opportunities

Decent Work

- Continue implementing and expanding BEEP and FLP to other target groups such as prisoners, youth in rehabilitation centers and returning youth migrants.
- Continue supporting digital and green transformation of TVET system, entrepreneurship ecosystem, business development, and the integration of employment and entrepreneurship development services in TVET system.

Business Environment Improvement

- Continue scaling up the promotion of the Green Manufacturing through Transfer of Environmentally Sound Technology (TEST) and Eco Industrial Park (EIP).
- Continue improving the enabling environment for youth entrepreneurship and enterprises with better access to information and finance.
- Continue supporting the Fisheries Administration in implementing the CQS scheme and developing a roadmap to meet the EU export condition.
- Develop and implement traceability model for advanced and target VCIS-FTS beneficiaries in their value chains.

Inclusive Development and Reducing Inequalities

- Continue supporting national policies/priorities for accelerating 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 dimension.
- Building on the INFF to promote dialogue between the government, private sector, civil society and development partners to support the country for a smooth LDC graduation and sustainable SDG financing; and
- Support the acceleration of Cambodia's SDG#18 on Mine Action, and linking cleared lands to development planning and relevant institutional governance mechanisms.

Outcome 3: Promoting Sustainable Living

Food security and nutrition

- Support CARD and line ministries to implement commitments in global summits on food systems and nutrition for growth, including the national food systems roadmap.
- Continue to promote inclusive and 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

- Support the implementation of the Resource Efficiency and Cleaner Production Strategy and Action Plans 2021-2030; New Biogas Policy; promote the Green Industrial Award; and promote Clean Technology Investment.
- Support increased access to electricity and promote sustainable energy solutions through building the Energy Code and Rooftop Solar Policy.

Environmental protection and climate change adaptation

- Address climate change mitigation and adaptation through strengthening protected area management.
- Strengthen coordination among key stakeholders at both national and sub-national levels to promote environmental conservation and sustainable development.
- Enhance systems and capacities to build resilience to climate-related hazards in the areas of WASH, education and social protection, through technical support for climate risk-informed programming in these sectors.
- Develop innovative financing solutions and private sector engagement for enhanced climate resilience in the areas of WASH and solid waste management, including through collaboration with the UN and the Joint SDG Fund.
- Support the National Council for Sustainable Development to update the Cambodian Climate Change Strategic Plan 2014-2023. Support the operationalization and implementation of the Long-term Strategy for Carbon Neutrality.
- Promote nature-based solutions to enhance natural resource management and reduce deforestation; provide support to advance Cambodia's transition to a circular economy.
- Support the National Social Protection Council and line ministries to operationalize 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

- Continue supporting movement building of civil society, especially young gender advocates, addressing discriminatory and harmful social and gender norms.
- Support civil society organizations to increase access to information for women migrants and their family members through innovative tool: My Journey Mobile App. At the same time, strengthening mechanisms to respond to gender-based violence services for women migrant workers.
- Continue providing evidence-based analyses of the economic and social rights situation to encourage the Royal Government of Cambodia to implement effective policies and programmes to protect and fulfil the economic and social rights of the people of Cambodia, including indigenous peoples, youth, women, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex people, persons with disabilities and labour union members.
- Continue providing and broadening safe spaces and forums for Government, Judiciary and Civil Society to discuss and engage in the development of legislation and programmes related to Freedom of Expression and Access to Information.
- Continue supporting civil society organizations-led initiatives through technical support and capacity building to enable them participating effectively in policy making. At the same time, the UN will continue strengthening functions and building capacity of people living with HIV and key population community networks, including strengthening and scale up of community-led monitoring.

Public institution functioning

- Continue providing technical support on RGC on laws, policies, and practices to effectively combat discrimination in all forms including HIV-related stigma and discrimination, and addressing the root causes of inequality.
- Continue providing technical support to RGC to increase the effectiveness of judicial and non-judicial accountability mechanisms and policies. In particular, the UN will support the establishment of both National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) and the National Preventive Mechanism (NMP) against torture and ill-treatment in line with international human rights norms.
- Continue supporting the RGC to improve the safety of journalists and human rights defenders.
- Continue providing support to the MOEYS to build the capacity of teachers; to implement Comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) in schools and implement school healthy room programme; to finalise Health Education & Comprehensive sexuality education textbooks and training manual for pre-service students at the regional teacher training college; to continue implementing the Adolescents and youth friendly mobile app to ensure young people access to Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights.
- Continue supporting the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) on the Criminal Case Database, to ensure case progression on 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.
- Continue supporting the government on child protection including the endorsement of child protection law, the development of related regulations, and continue building capacity of justice service providers at both the national and the subnational levels to enhance effectiveness of Juvenile Justice Law implementation.
- Supporting the National Committee for Disaster Management and relevant partners to systematically mainstream gender into climate actions and disaster risk reduction.

Implementation and monitoring of laws and standards

- Continue providing support to RGC in submitting reports to International Human Rights Mechanisms and conducting consultations with civil society organizations.
- Continue providing technical assistance and capacity building to the government to ensure that the development of legislation and policies related to the regulation of the cyberspace are in line

with international standards and to increase the effectiveness of judicial and non-judicial accountability mechanisms and policies.

- Continue providing technical support to bring the legal framework into compliance with international human rights norms and standards.

Gender Equality, GBV, and Violence Against Children (VAC)

- Continue supporting the government in effective implementation of existing policies, strategies and plans of MoWA including establishing and operationalise the GBV digital platform; and setting up a safe space for GBV survivors under the framework of multi-sectoral coordinated services through consultative meetings with key stakeholders
- Providing technical support to MoWA to develop a roadmap for reform of the Law on Prevention of Domestic Violence and Protection of Victims, to develop the standard operating procedure for VAW referral at the district level and helpline referral to guide service delivery and referral and to conduct the final evaluation of the 3rd NAPVAW.
- Continue supporting and partnership with 3PC and Child Helpline Cambodia to deliver child protection services including MHPSS services and GBV risk mitigation and response services.
- Continue building institutional capacity of MoSVY particularly social service workforce (SSWF) to deliver prevention and response child protection services which include case management, strengthening of referral pathways through the implementation of Child Protection Standard Operating Procedure (CP-SOP), rolling out of SSWF training modules including GBV modules.

Strengthening of National Statistical System and Capacity

- Provide technical support and capacities to the Ministry of Planning and relevant line ministries to analyse and utilize the Cambodia Demographic and Health Survey 2021-22 data for planning and monitoring of their development policies and programmes including Cambodia Sustainable Development Goals s, Voluntary National Review 2023 and National Strategic Development Plan 2024-2028.
- Continue supporting the implementation of the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) and SDG monitoring and reporting, which includes the support to agriculture census, survey, and continue supporting NIS on National Development/SDGs Indicators Reporting Platform/Data Exchange (CAMSTAT) and including a CSDG/SDG tracking portal.
- Continue supporting and building capacity of NIS on alternative data solutions with the focus on “big data”.
- Continue providing technical support and capacities to the Ministry of Planning and relevant line ministries to analyse and utilize data for planning and monitoring of their development policies and programmes including Cambodia Sustainable Development Goals, Voluntary National Review 2023 and the new National Strategic Development Plan 2024-2028.

Outcome 5: Managing Urbanization

- Reinforce and scale up a combination of HIV prevention and innovative and differentiated HIV testing, and provide support and strategic guidance for the implementation of the Fast Track City Strategic Plan in the four Fast Track Cities: Phnom Penh, Battambang, Banteay Meanchey, and Siem Reap.
- Strengthen climate change adaptation and resilience through protective small-scale infrastructure interventions in coastal settlements at Kep and Preah Sihanouk provinces and the development

of disaster risk strategies and management plans for the protection of cultural heritage sites in Cambodia.

- Improve access to health, labor rights, and employment support for migrants, by assisting the RGC in the implementation of the annual Operational Plan for migrant health (2023-2024) and the upgrading of the policy on Labour Migration (2019-2023).
- Assist the National Smart Cities Committee to develop the National Roadmap for the Development of the Smart Cities Strategy and Framework and support 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, leaving no one behind, and gender equality and women's empowerment.
- Assist the RGC in developing 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, to leverage tangible and intangible cultural heritage in cities across Cambodia.

Draft

(To add a back cover page)

Draft