



# Project to Support Democratic Development through Decentralization and Deconcentration (PSDD)

## Background

Under the National Strategic Development Plan, 2006-2010 (NSDP), which is the equivalent of Cambodia's Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP), decentralisation and deconcentration (D&D) is considered a prerequisite for poverty reduction. The Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) faces two key challenges in implementing D&D. First, in the early stages of reform, RGC must minimize disruption to current arrangements for delivering support to sub-national levels, while implementing significant reforms defined by the current draft organic law when it is enacted. Second, RGC needs to harmonise and operationally align a wide range of development partner activities with the national D&D program as it emerges.

## Purpose of project

The goal of the PSDD is to reduce poverty in Cambodia through support to Decentralization and Deconcentration reform. The programme will work to improve governance, service delivery and development for the rural poor by: strengthening local government systems and structures to enable better pro-poor investments; improving the quality, accessibility and equity of services at the sub-national level; and prior to and following enactment of the organic law on D&D, supporting a more effective policy, legal, political, institutional and administrative framework that will give the poor greater access to and benefits from local services.

## Key results and reports

- A Joint Donor/MOI working group was established to develop the TOR for the design of the SNDD. This was completed in November 2007
- Technical and financial support provided to seven national workshops setting the national direction and agenda for 2008
- Formulation of study recommendations into action plans
- Revision of Seila Finance and Administration Manual to NCDD
- Design support to two new World Bank projects (LASED and DDLG/OWSO) and start up of RILG additional financing all under NCDD framework with aggregate value of US\$50 million
- Revised District Guidelines on the basis of two years experience; approved by NCDD; training to all districts; formulation of 2008 District AWPBs
- Support to 1,621 new CS Councils, 130 Districts and 24 provinces in preparation of 2008 sub-national AWPBs valued at US\$50 million
- Revised structure of database to fully accommodate UNICEF strategic framework enabling better integration of the Seth Koma programme in provincial management system
- Training of all 1,621 newly elected CS Councils in revised CS planning system guidelines
- Support to district integration workshops in all 185 districts

## Main activities

- Support for maintaining and strengthening local government systems and structures during the transition period to enable RGC and development partner investments at the subnational level to continue
- Support for improving the quality, accessibility and equity of service delivery at the subnational level
- Support for more effective policy, legal, political, institutional and administrative framework giving the poor greater access to and benefit from local services once the organic law on D&D has been enacted

## Contributing donor(s)

- **Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA):** US\$12,600,000
- **Department for International Development (DFID):** US\$15,600,000
- **UNDP:** US\$3,600,000

## Duration

2007-2009 (this project is ongoing)

## Total budget

US\$34,800,000

## Project Partners

**Executing agency:** The Ministry of Interior, National Committee to Manage Decentralization and Deconcentration (NCDD)

## Project delivery

**2006:** not applicable

## Location

Nationwide

## Thematic Area

**Corporate Thematic Area:** Democratic Governance

**UN Country Programme Outcome:** 2.6 Decentralization policies, including fiscal and legal frameworks, adopted

## Millennium Development Goal

**Goal 1:** Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

Good governance is a prerequisite for Cambodia to reach its Millennium Development Goal of halving poverty and hunger by 2015

## Contact

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