

## Insights for Action



### Background

At a meeting in May 2004, the Prime Minister discussed the Rectangular Strategy with Dr. Hafiz Pasha, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and UNDP Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific. The Prime Minister asked that UNDP provide innovative ideas to help implement the strategy, particularly for achieving further substantial progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and improved human wellbeing in Cambodia. In response to the request by the Prime Minister, the Insights for Action project was created to systematically generate innovative cutting-edge ideas and policy options to help achieve the higher growth, employment, equity and efficiency.

### Purpose of project

This project generates innovative ideas, creative approaches and practical knowledge, as well as catalyzing decisions and actions for the rapid and effective implementation of the National Strategic Development Plan, 2006-2010 (NSDP). Special focus is given to those aspects of with the greatest scope for rapidly advancing progress toward achieving Cambodia's Millennium Development Goals (CMDGs).

### Key results and reports

- A rapid response knowledge generation facility to help meet requests for innovative ideas, advisory services and practical applied policy research aimed at helping the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) and other development partners implement the Rectangular Strategy and achieve the CMDGs
- Developed national capacities to better enable more productive human resources and better livelihoods, as well as further improvement of policy and institutional environments
- New applied policy research in agreed high priority targeted areas of the Rectangular Strategy designed and implemented. This may include mapping of research work plans, preparing terms of reference, recruiting expertise, launching targeted surveys and case studies, integrating quantitative techniques, undertaking analyses and deriving policy implications and options
- An effective website developed to further facilitate the sharing of information, innovative ideas and practical knowledge, including policy based publications from the knowledge generation facility
- Develop a knowledge sharing forum where representatives of various development partners and stakeholders can meet to discuss the latest findings of the knowledge generation facility and other ideas and information
- The knowledge sharing part of the project will be available for other UN agencies to spotlight their studies related to the Rectangular Strategy and the CMDGs

### Main activities

Insights for Action has three mutually reinforcing components. The knowledge generation component focuses on practical research in priority areas of the Rectangular Strategy, the NSDP and the Cambodia Millennium Development Goals (CMDGs). Issues to be researched are based on the needs of the RGC and other development partners and stakeholders. Proposed research includes:

- Practical research on how to improve farm family income. This is a key issue in Cambodia due to the persistent high levels of rural poverty
- Research into the extent of the socio-economic implications of the discovery of oil and gas in Cambodia
- Production of a National Human Development Report to identify and promote skill acquisition for a growing economy
- A study on the extent of, and remedies available to combat, bird flu in Cambodia.
- The knowledge sharing component both facilitates the work of the knowledge generation component and disseminates the ideas and knowledge produced. Equally important, it also aims to develop common understandings among government and non-government stakeholders on priority development issues, and to develop broad support for related actions. During 2005 the project undertook two significant studies relating to the Cambodian economy, and supported the establishment of a new economic forum.

- Insights for Action will support the organization of two further Cambodia Economic forums in conjunction with the Government's Supreme National Economic Council (SNEC), building on the success of the first forum held in January 2006. The project will also provide training for RGC staff on investment choices in relation to increased revenue from the exploitation of oil. This will especially target how to avoid the resource curse that can be experienced in developing countries like Cambodia
- Other initiatives will result from both international donor and local input, including from the RGC and the UN Country Team

The knowledge sharing component offers a wide range of activities including the Annual Cambodia Economic Forum, media conferences, website and publication of research findings.

Knowledge into Action is a new facet of the IFA programme that works to help the RGC implement policy ideas such as project appraisal using cost/benefit of social, environmental, economic and political dimensions.

## Contributing donor

- **UNDP:** US\$3,213,600

## Duration

2005-2010 (this project is under implementation)

## Total budget

US\$4,188,000

## Project partners

**Executing agency:** UNDP

## Project delivery

**2005:** US\$261,349

**2006:** US\$384,829

## Location

Phnom Penh

## Thematic area

**Corporate Thematic Area:** Poverty Reduction and Gender

**UN Country Programme Outcome:** 1.1: Statistical capacities and analytical processes for regular MDG reporting established

## Millennium Development Goal

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

**Goal 2:** Achieve universal primary education

**Goal 3:** Promote gender equality and empower women

**Goal 4:** Reduce child mortality

**Goal 5:** Improve maternal health

**Goal 7:** Ensure environmental sustainability

## Contact

**UNDP Programme Officer:** Ms. Dinravy Khorn, Senior National Project Manager

No. 53, Street 51, Phnom Penh, + (855) 23 216 167

dinravy.khorn@undp.org, www.un.org.kh/undp/