



National Statistical System

Background

Inequality in Cambodia is higher than in most other Asian countries at Cambodia's level of economic development. However, on average many of the poor are living close to the poverty line of half a dollar a day, which indicates that there is considerable potential for poverty reduction through growth with equity.

For the past decade, a vast amount of household survey data has been generated in Cambodia. However, much of the data are not comparable due to differences in methodology and coverage. Within the context of the National Poverty Reduction Strategy (NPRS), the government recognizes the importance of timely and reliable data as a baseline to monitor effectiveness and efficiency in resource use and progress towards poverty reduction targets. To this end, the government has established a poverty monitoring and analysis (PMA) system, which aims at timeliness and reliability of data. The PMA system also aims at achieving both openness and results oriented information for informed policy dialogue and decision-making. The PMA system emphasizes the measurement of poverty outcomes in relation to key macroeconomic, trade, other sectoral and budgetary reforms. It is expected to be the main tool for regular reporting on Cambodia's progress towards achieving its national and global development goals.

Purpose of project

The UN Common Country Assessment of October 1998 confirmed the importance of identifying the determinants and dimensions of poverty for poverty eradication. In addition, the UN Development Assistance Framework (2001-2005) aimed at supporting the development of national policy initiatives which influence the lives of the poor. The emphasis is on strong economic growth, combined with well-distributed growth among regions to benefit the whole population. Under the UNDP Common Country Framework (2001- 2005), the following three areas of concentrations were been identified: (1) Strengthening governing Institutions at national and local level; (2) Poverty reduction and monitoring; and (3) Management of natural resources.

Gender is a crosscutting theme in all areas of concentration. Better governance and systematic support for open and participatory processes of policy-making, priority setting, resource allocation and monitoring are at the heart of all development interventions.

Key results and reports

- Economics professionals trained in both data collection and analysis at the Ministry of Planning and the National Institute of Statistics
- Enhanced capacity for pro-poor policy determination
- Established a National Poverty Forum (NPF) to bring together representatives from government, parliament, civil society and the private sector and organized six NPFs between 2002 and 2004
- Prepared and launched the 2003 Cambodia MDG Report in March 2004
- Conducted the 2004 Cambodia Household Socio-Economic Survey
- Developed a 2004 Poverty Profile
- Produced the 2005 Cambodia MDG Update
- Produced a Cambodia annual report and case study on the implementation of the Brussels Plan of Action
- Provided inputs to the National Strategic Development Plan, 2006-2010

Main activities

- Capacity development for professional staff of core and line ministries (including NIS) in data collection, collation, socio-economic analysis and policy review
- Develop a demand-driven system for poverty monitoring (PMA)
- Establish a broad partnership arrangement in the form of the National Poverty Forum (NPF)

Contributing donor(s)

- **UNDP:** US\$753,830

Duration

March 2000-November 2007 (this project is closed)

Total budget

US\$753,830

Project partners

Executing agency: National Institute of Statistics (Ministry of Planning)

Project delivery

2004: US\$78,227

2005: US\$168,721

2006: US\$159,173

2007: US\$347,654

Location

Phnom Penh

Thematic area

Corporate Thematic Area: Poverty Reduction

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

Contact

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