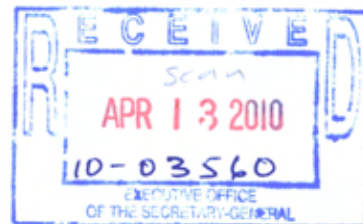




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United Nations in Cambodia

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UNDP / Res Coord  
DSG



26 February 2010

Dear Secretary General Ban Ki Moon,

**Subject: 2009 Annual Report of the UN Resident Coordinator in Cambodia** ✓

We are again pleased to provide you with a summary of UN activities including progress on UN reform and its application to operational activities in Cambodia. The attached tables summarises the results of 2009 and plans for 2010.

## 1. The Cambodia Context

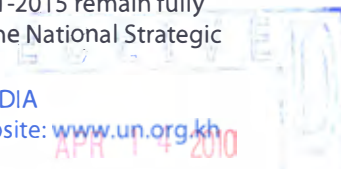
Cambodia has entered its fourth legislature (2008-2013) since the Paris Peace Accords of 1991, having successfully completed the most recent National Assembly election held on 27 July 2008. The Rectangular Strategy Phase II calls for continued reform, an enabling environment for investment and an average annual growth rate of 7 percent to achieve a continued reduction in the poverty rate of 1 percent per year and continued improvements in the social sectors. The Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) has taken firm ownership of the national development agenda and coordinates external assistance worth about USD 950 million for 2009 (excluding US assistance), which amounts to about 50 percent of the total national budget and 9 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The dynamics of external assistance are changing with the entry of emerging donors such as China, Korea, Kuwait and Qatar. Cambodia has been most severely affected by the global economic downturn in 2008/2009 and it is unlikely that Cambodia will achieve its CMDG targets of reducing overall poverty levels to 25 percent by 2010 and 19.5 percent by 2015. The ongoing vulnerability of Cambodians to economic and other shocks dominated dialogue at the highest level of Government, inclusive of Government's development of an integrated social safety net strategy. Democratic governance saw further erratic progress during 2009 particularly associated with forced evictions and resettlement in the urban areas of Phnom Penh, targeting HIV affected families, as well as in rural areas. Approval of the draft national anti-corruption law took place on 11 December. Slow coordinated responses to Typhoon Ketsana and increased coordination pressures due to the H1N1 pandemic in 2009, call for improved coordination mechanisms for disaster preparedness and response, and UN contingency planning. Public Financial Management Reform moved ahead, if slowly, and Public Admin Reform was revived in early 2009 through the Prime Minister's reaffirming the Council of Administrative Reform's lead role. PAR has however been stalled in late 2009 with the Government's decision to cancel all Merit Based Pay Initiative and salary supplementation schemes, immediately impacting the capacity of programme to achieve planned results and raising real concerns of impacts on the most vulnerable, and reduction or cessation of service delivery to most at risk populations.

## 2. Highlights on progress in UN reform

Central to the advancement of UN in Cambodia has been the consistent good will and positive approach of the UN Country Team towards cohesion and UN coordination and a step-wise approach to UN reform. An in-depth, participatory and yearlong strategic dialogue around formulation of the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF 2011-2015) as the common programming document of the UN system catalysed this sense of cohesion in the team.

### One leader, one programme

The UN was directly involved in advancing aid effectiveness priorities through its support for and participation in the Partnership Initiative led by Government, facilitating greater long term results-focused collaboration. The current UNDAF 2006-2010 and the new UNDAF 2011-2015 remain fully aligned with the Cambodian Government's Rectangular Strategy Phase II and the National Strategic





Development Plan (NSDP). UNDAF planning and review cycles allow for harmonization around key programme based approaches, most notably those present in Education, Health and Trade, and support annual cycles of review, formulation of Joint Monitoring Indicators (JMI) to monitor implementation of the NSDP and efforts towards attainment of the CMDGs. UN contribution to ODA is input and validated annually along with other Development Partners and most recently Non Governmental Organisations in the context of Government led annual aid effectiveness reporting and formulation of the Multi Year Indicative Financing Framework (MYIFF). The UN continues to speak with one voice at key donor and government meetings including the Government Donor Coordinating Committee (GDCC) and the Cambodia Development Cooperation Forum (CDCF) Joint Programming involving more than six UN agencies, most notably that undertaken with support from the MDG Achievement Fund, has aligned UN resources with national priorities for Cultural Industry Development and Children, Food Security and Nutrition. Youth remains a priority for the UN in Cambodia given the substantial human development concerns linked to the high proportion of young people and high levels of youth unemployment in the country. Cambodia is an overwhelmingly young country with young people aged between 10-24 years of age making up 34.8 percent of Cambodia's population. As a part of the UN response to these emerging issues, the UN Youth Situation Analysis was finalized and launched in 2009. This Analysis will lead to the formulation of a joint UN youth strategy in 2010 and UN support to Government's launch of the first National Youth Policy.

### One management practice

Key elements of the UN in Cambodia's reform agenda were advanced in 2009 inclusive of: Increased focus of the Operations Management Team (OMT) on operational continuity and HACT compliance; Crisis Management Team (CMT) finalization of joint UN Pandemic contingency planning; steps forward in Common Premises and roll out of the UN Learning Programme focused on key elements of UN reform and UN Cares involving more than 526 staff. The UN's common advocacy points of Maternal Mortality and Equity have focused joint efforts to highlight areas of priority, advocacy and joint communication. These advocacy points and their dedicated implementation plans are embedded within the joint UN Communication and Advocacy strategy aligned with UN priorities.

### 3. Highlights on progress towards UNDAF outcomes

In 2009, the UNDAF 2006-2010 entered its fourth year of implementation and underwent its third year of joint annual review with Government, positioned as joint dialogue to support validation of the final draft UNDAF 2011-2015. UNDAF implementation has impacted positively on the UN's approach to UN reform, common programming capacity and joint review processes and created an opportunity to annually monitor real results. Highlights of the progress in 2009 are summarized within each of the UNDAF's four strategic priorities.

**Good governance and the promotion and protection of human rights:** Increased civil society organisation (CSO) and citizen participation in decision making through support for the participation of youth in decision making processes; dialogue on the draft law on Criminal Code conducted September 2009; increased proportions of female representation in public institutions; policies related to Indigenous peoples adopted by RGC; increased public access to information through completion of Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training's union database; Equity Bureau established within the Ministry of Information; assessment "Towards Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Cambodia by 2016" published; increased Equal Access to an Independent and Impartial Justice System through inter country adoption law now entered into force; Law on promotion and protection of the Rights of Persons with a Disability entered into force; ratification of the optional procedure to CEDAW approved by the Cambodian National Assembly and Senate in August 2009; total of 1621 cases received by 20 Maison de la Justice and 56 Commune Dispute Resolution committees (January to September 2009) as part of alternative dispute resolution mechanism; increased effectiveness of local governance and delivery of basic services through strengthened capacity of communes to integrate child protection into plans and budgets; completion of multi-year capacity development framework for commune committees for women and children; 30 regulations drafted for the implementation of the organic law.



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**Agriculture and Rural Development:** Mobilisation of resources for the agricultural development of rural areas through 13 million USD mobilized to finance climate change initiatives; “Cambodia Agriculture and Water resources research, education and extension programme” formulated and submitted for endorsement; Phytosanitary Law and Law on Animal Production and Health drafted; action plan of participatory irrigation management and development (2010-2019) drafted; increased and equitable access to livelihoods enhancing facilities through 14 percent decrease in total landmine casualties compared to 2008; 89,540 people (49,137 women) benefited from the community fisheries, forestry, protected areas, and market mechanisms; the Third Cambodia Economic Forum organized in February 2009; improvement in agricultural productivity through a total of 88.5 tonnes of rice seeds and 140 tonnes of fertilizers distributed to vulnerable farmers of 4,676 households in six provinces; enhanced understanding of resilience to shocks through completion of report on Climate Change Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessment; project “Improve the food security and farming families affected by volatile food prices” implemented in September 2009; national IEC coordinating committee on avian and human influenza producing key communications materials.

**Capacity building and human resource development in the social sectors:** Increased equitable access to and utilization of quality social services through development of national plan of action for persons with disability including due to explosive remnants of war victims; two job centres established in Phnom Penh and Battambang; increased access to school meal programme; Sector Wide approach Health Sector Support Programme II on reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health started (63 percent increase in 2009 allocations); development of new system to manage acute malnutrition; preparation and approval of Joint Programme (MDG Funded) Children, Food Security and Nutrition 2010-2012; 5 of 6 provinces have reached 55 percent coverage of improved sources of drinking water; increased awareness and empowerment of the population, particularly women, children and youth, to claim their rights to social services through completion and launch of Youth Situation Analysis; mechanism for National Youth Policy and action plan development in place; recommendations from Second Cambodia Gender Analysis incorporated into Ministry of Women’s Affairs’ five-year strategy; reduction in all forms of violence against and trafficking of women and children through draft prakas on establishment and organisation of the Women’s and Children’s Consultative committees approved by the National Committee for Democratic Development; National Action Plan on Violence against Women ready for implementation.

**Support to the National Strategic Development Plan (2006-2010):** Coherent and participatory process for transforming Rectangular Strategy into NSDP through support provided to Ministry of Planning (MoP) for extension of National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP) to 2013; support for the Population Census 2008 analysis and dissemination; effective implementation of the NSDP, resource disbursement, good coordination and participation through improvement of gender statistics and M&E within MoP; Royal University of Law and Economics produced research to support Trade Development Monitoring with a Human Development perspective; National Strategic Development Plan effectively monitored with focus on CMDG progress through provision of indicators for the NSDP update 2009-2013; launch and training on CAMinfo v3.2 and integration of census 2008 data for monitoring of national goals; effective coordination of partner actions, impact and cohesion through aid effectiveness joint monitoring indicators developed and endorsed by sector TWGs; M&E capacity development in sector wide approaches; ODA database upgraded and updated twice in 2009.

#### 4. Key aspects of the proposed 2010 work plan

2010 will be an opportunity for the UN Country Team to advance its priorities for UN Reform, to prepare the ground for full implementation of the UNDAF 2011-2015, and to sharpen focus on CMDG attainment and off-track CMDGs. The 2010 work plan prioritises harmonisation in programme delivery, operational continuity, aid effectiveness and UN coordination. The UNCT will collaborate under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator and the Royal Government of Cambodia and in partnership with other development partners, the private sector and civil society.



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Some specific highlights within the 2010 work plan include:

**Finalise the UN in Cambodia's UN reform priority plan** inclusive of alignment of UN reform priorities against the broader principles of aid effectiveness, national development priorities and the Cambodia context for CMDG attainment.

Advancing the programmatic side of **UN reform through joint programming** that prioritises the areas supported by the MDG Fund (Culture and Development, and Children, Food Security and Nutrition) and in areas of sectoral reform including Democratic Development; Gender (inclusive of Gender Based Violence); Economic Development and Trade; Health; Education; Youth; HIV & AIDS and Avian and Pandemic Influenza.

A coordinated **focus on the impacts of the Global Economic Downturn** through support to Government's formulation of an integrated social safety net strategy and social protection policy.

Active coordinated **joint UN engagement in Cambodia's aid effectiveness mechanisms** as a means to focus and enact the UN Country Teams UN Reform priorities, including the importance of leading dialogue and speaking with one voice on priority Human Development issues of the NSDP at quarterly Government Donor Coordinating Committee (GDCC) and annual Cambodia Development Cooperation Forum (CDCF).

Continued **alignment with and support for implementation of the NSDP** including UN facilitation of TWGs for Planning and Poverty Reduction; Food Security and Nutrition; Agriculture and Water; Health; Education; HIV & AIDS; Gender; and therefore the UN's common programming around the Ministry of Planning Strategic Plan (MPSP); Education and Health Sector Strategies; National Youth Policy and Action Plan, the National HIV & AIDS strategy.

Refine the **UNDAF 2011-2015 annual monitoring framework to allow for annual joint review** of results inclusive of participation across UN agencies and annual dialogue with development partners, civil society and the private sector.

A maintained focus on the **promotion and protection of human rights** and the rule of law to strengthen UN system programming and broader donor alignment around key issues of land, eviction and forced resettlement, drug rehabilitation and continued support to Government to help it meet Cambodia's treaty reporting obligations.

**UN operational reform and business continuity** through the Operations Management team building strategic approaches to common services (inclusive of attaining HACT compliance), maximizing economies of scale and building a 2011-2015 UN operational reform strategy.

**The UN Communications and Advocacy strategy** mobilizing and promoting the UNCTs UN reform approach, building on the successes of 2009 and effectively positioning the UN on core issues. Revising the UN's two key advocacy points (Maternal Mortality and Equity) which inform targeted agreed campaign strategies inclusive of consideration of off track CMDGs.

**Joint UN Disaster Management and Crisis Management** teams supporting Government's capacity for disaster risk reduction and response to pandemic. Implementation of recommendations from the 2009 UN Disaster Assessment Committee (UNDAC) mission to Cambodia.

## 5. Recommendations

In 2009, as a UN country team we provided a number of recommendations for consideration by HQ colleagues. These have been considered within the context of the UN's support for development efforts in Cambodia and enhancing progress in UN reform. We suggest the following:





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- Continue the practice of one annual report to the Secretary General per year in the current format and continue to streamline RC/UNCT assessment to reduce duplication of key results.
- Continued efforts to ensure coordinated and joint UN missions to the field reducing impacts on country level UN colleagues and their respective host governments.
- The urgent need for the inter-agency review of current agency level policies and practices, particularly those of an operational nature, to ensure they do not obstruct country level efforts of reform. In some contexts currently, certain aspects of country level cohesion are still prohibited by conflicting policies at agency level.
- Annual update to RC's and UNCTs on funding trends and policy priorities of international donors as they relate to prioritized support for UN cohesion. This would inform and rationalise resource mobilization efforts at the local level and increase strategic approaches to donors at all levels of the UN system.
- Continue to review joint programme guidelines to reduce the complexity and 'project' focused structures and processes to increase opportunities to incorporate joint programme monitoring in the annual joint monitoring cycles of the UNDAF.
- Advocate for standard principles of engagement between regional organisations and bodies of the UN system with RCs and UNCT where regionally supported activity takes place at the country level to reduce the risk of conflicting dialogue with government and the undermining of country led project and programme approaches discussed and guided by the UN country team.

In conclusion we wish you well in this continued environment of challenge and opportunity for international development and poverty reduction, and extend an invitation for you to visit Cambodia, a country where we see such great potential.

Yours sincerely



Douglas Broderick  
UN Resident Coordinator