

**កិច្ចប្រជុំអន្តរក្រសួងកម្រិតនយោបាយដើម្បីពិនិត្យនិងផ្តល់ការឯកភាពលើ  
សេចក្តីព្រាងរបាយការណ៍ត្រួតពិនិត្យថ្នាក់ជាតិដោយស្ម័គ្រចិត្ត ឆ្នាំ២០១៩  
នៃការអនុវត្ត គ.អ.ប.ក. ២០១៦-២០៣០  
សណ្ឋាគារភ្នំពេញ រាជធានីភ្នំពេញ ថ្ងៃទី១០ ខែឧសភា ឆ្នាំ២០១៩**



**សេចក្តីព្រាងកម្មវិធី**

07:30 – 08:30	ចុះឈ្មោះ
08:30 – 09:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- គោរពទង់ជាតិនៃព្រះរាជាណាចក្រកម្ពុជា</li> <li>- របាយការណ៍ពីប្រវត្តិដើម និងវឌ្ឍនភាពនៃការនៃការរៀបចំសេចក្តីព្រាង របាយការណ៍ត្រួតពិនិត្យថ្នាក់ជាតិដោយស្ម័គ្រចិត្ត ឆ្នាំ២០១៩ នៃការអនុវត្ត គោលដៅអភិវឌ្ឍប្រកបដោយចីរភាពកម្ពុជា ២០១៦-២០៣០ ដោយ ឯកឧត្តម ថេង បញ្ញាធន ប្រតិភូរាជរដ្ឋាភិបាលកម្ពុជាទទួលបន្ទុកអគ្គនាយកដ្ឋានផែនការ</li> <li>- ចំណាប់អារម្មណ៍របស់លោកជំទាវ <b>Pauline Tamesis</b> អ្នកសម្របសម្រួលរបស់អង្គការសហប្រជាជាតិប្រចាំនៅកម្ពុជា</li> <li>- សុន្ទរកថាបើកកិច្ចប្រជុំរបស់ ឯកឧត្តម <b>កិត្តិសេដ្ឋាបណ្ឌិត វ៉ាយ ចិន ឧសដេម</b> ទ្រឹស្តីក្រសួងផែនការ</li> </ul>
09:00 – 09:30	សម្រាកពិសារអាហារសម្រន់
09:30 – 12:00	ពិនិត្យនិងផ្តល់ការឯកភាពលើសេចក្តីព្រាងរបាយការណ៍ត្រួតពិនិត្យថ្នាក់ជាតិដោយស្ម័គ្រចិត្ត ឆ្នាំ២០១៩ នៃការអនុវត្ត គោលដៅអភិវឌ្ឍប្រកបដោយចីរភាពកម្ពុជា ២០១៦-២០៣០ ជំពូកទី១ ទី២ និងទី៣
12:00 – 14:00	សម្រាកពិសារអាហារថ្ងៃត្រង់
14:00 – 15:30	ពិនិត្យនិងផ្តល់ការឯកភាពលើសេចក្តីព្រាងរបាយការណ៍ត្រួតពិនិត្យថ្នាក់ជាតិដោយស្ម័គ្រចិត្ត ឆ្នាំ២០១៩ នៃការអនុវត្ត គោលដៅអភិវឌ្ឍប្រកបដោយចីរភាពកម្ពុជា ២០១៦-២០៣០ ជំពូកទី៤
15:30 – 15:45	សម្រាកពិសារអាហារសម្រន់
15:45 – 16:45	ពិនិត្យនិងផ្តល់ការឯកភាពលើសេចក្តីព្រាងរបាយការណ៍ត្រួតពិនិត្យថ្នាក់ជាតិដោយស្ម័គ្រចិត្ត ឆ្នាំ២០១៩ នៃការអនុវត្ត គោលដៅអភិវឌ្ឍប្រកបដោយចីរភាពកម្ពុជា ២០១៦-២០៣០ ជំពូកទី៥
16:45 – 17:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- មតិបូកសរុបដែលទទួលបានពីកិច្ចប្រជុំ និងជំហានត្រូវអនុវត្តបន្ត</li> <li>- មតិបិទអង្គប្រជុំ ដោយឯកឧត្តម <b>ទួន ចាវរ</b> រដ្ឋលេខាធិការក្រសួងផែនការ</li> </ul>

**Inter-Ministerial High-Level Meeting  
to Review and Validate  
the Draft of Voluntary National Review 2019  
of the Implementation of the CSDGs 2016-2030**

Phnom Penh Hotel, Phnom Penh, 10 May 2019



**Tentative Agenda**

07:30 – 08:30	<b>Registration</b>
08:30 – 09:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- National anthem</li> <li>- Background and progress of preparation of the VNR 2019 for the implementation of the CSDGs 2016-2030 by <b>HE. Theng Pagnathun</b>, Delegate of the RGC in Charge of DG of Planning</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Key Remarks by <b>Mrs. Pauline Tamesis</b>, UN Resident Coordinator to Cambodia</li> <li>- Opening Remarks by <b>HE Kete Setha Bondit Chhay Than</b>, Senior Minister, Minister of Planning</li> </ul>
09:00 – 09:30	Tea/Coffee Break
09:30 – 12:00	Review and Validation of the draft VNR 2019 for the Implementation of the CSDGs 2016-2030: Chapter 1, Chapter 2, and Chapter 3
12:00 – 14:00	Lunch Break
14:00 – 15:30	Review and Validation of the draft VNR 2019 for the Implementation of the CSDGs 2016-2030: Chapter 4
15:30 – 15:45	Tea/Coffee Break
15:45 – 16:45	Review and Validation of the draft VNR 2019 for the Implementation of the CSDGs 2016-2030: Chapter 5
16:45 – 17:00	Wrap-up, next steps and closing remarks by <b>HE Tuon Thavrak</b> , Secretary of State, Ministry of Planning



(Second Draft)

**CAMBODIA'S**  
**VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW 2019**  
**ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2030 AGENDA**  
**FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**



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## **Abbreviations (To be updated)**

CCCSP	Cambodia Climate Change Strategic Plan
CSDGs	Cambodian Sustainable Development Goals
CSO	Civil Society
DPCS	Development Cooperation and Partnership Strategy
ECE	Early Childhood Education
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
IDP	Industrial Development Policy
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MEF	Ministry of Economy and Finance
MIH	Ministry of Industry and Handicraft
MME	Ministry of Mine and Entergy
MRD	Ministry of Rural Development
MOC	Ministry of Commerce
MOCS	Ministry of Civil Service
MOE	Ministry of Environment
MOEYS	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport
MOH	Ministry of Health
MOI	Ministry of Interior
MONASRY	Ministry of National Assembly Senate Relation and Inspection
MOP	Ministry of Planning
MOWA	Ministry of Women's Affairs
MOWRAM	Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology
NCSD	National Council for Sustainable Development
NIS	National Institute of Statistics
NSDP	National Strategic Development Plan
RGC	Royal Government of Cambodia
RS	Rectangular Strategy
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
UNDP	United Nations Development Programs
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia the Pacific
VNR	Voluntary National Review
WTO	World Trade Organization



**Opening Statement (To be written)**

## **Highlights/Summary (To be written)**



# Section 1: Introduction

## **1.1 Country Context**

Cambodia continues to demonstrate good economic performance with great strides having been put towards sustained and rapid economic development. With policies to ensure strong macroeconomic stability and an open economy, Cambodia achieved an annual average GDP growth of 7%, enabling it to raise average incomes and dramatically reduce poverty over the past two decades. This has also been accompanied by high levels of employment and relatively benign inequality.

Cambodia's leading manufacturing sector - garments and footwear, continues to support positive structural change and growth in value-added. There has also been some diversification of the industrial base, notably to automotive parts and electronics. The service sector has also grown strongly with annual growth at 8%, especially via better performance in domestic trade and transportation-yet this sector faces some challenges while the growth rates of tourism and in real estate have slowed in recent years, they have been very strong contributors to service sector over the medium term and represent major components of employment and output.

The country also achieved the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and has made impressive human development gains with its Human Development Index (HDI) increasing by 58% between 1990 and 2015, making it one of the world's best performers. Cambodian society is also undergoing major transformations driven by a rapid demographic transition and progressive urbanization and industrialization.

In 2016, Cambodia was classified as a lower-middle income country although it still remains among the Least Developed Countries (LDCs). Cambodia aims to become an upper-middle-income country by 2030 and a high-income economy by 2050. In addition, in order to attain environmental sustainability and sustain Cambodia's path to development, the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) initiated an environmental governance reform.

The Environment and Natural Resources Code and a National Environment Strategy and Action Plan (NESAP), both(these) being developed by the end of 2016, seek to create an enabling legal and policy environment that will make it possible to achieve environmental protection while supporting sustainable development. Among other things, the Code will entail legal provisions to strengthen the conservation of natural resources and wildlife, build climate resilience, promote the use of renewable and environmentally friendly energy, and build sustainable cities with the capacity to deal with air and waste pollution.

Along with an enabling legal and policy environment, it is essential to effectively manage natural resources through the proper use of scientific knowledge and the establishment of adequate monitoring systems. It is worth noting as well that the practical implementation of environmental laws and policies depends on human and financial resources.

Effective enforcement of environmental laws and policies depends on the development of adequate technical and financial skills in the relevant government institutions. Equally important is the enhancement of infrastructures in support of environmental sustainability and protection. In the case of droughts and floods, for example, this



includes weather stations and early warning systems that can provide in-time information to government agencies and local communities.

In the end, however, the key requisite for successful environmental governance is that Cambodian citizens are actively listened to and engaged in environmental issues. After all, Cambodian people, in rural and urban areas, have first-hand knowledge of how they are affected by their environments. This knowledge must be activated as part of adequate environmental responses. Stakeholder engagement and leadership – broadly conceived as citizen involvement – must therefore be a core element in Cambodia's path towards sustainable environmental governance.

## **1.2 RGC Commitment to the Sustainable Development Agenda**

The RGC embraced the United Nations' 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development and its associated 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with strong commitments. All 17 SDGs were selected and one additional goal, related to clearance of land mines and of Explosive Remnants of War (reflecting the national priority of de-mining Cambodia's territory), was added. This resulted in a final version comprising: 18 Cambodian Sustainable Development Goals, 88 nationally relevant targets, and 148 (global and locally-defined) indicators including 96 national indicators. Formal development process of the CSDGs started after many rounds of debriefing sessions with relevant stakeholders, including policymakers, ministries, related agencies, and the Cambodian public. The Ministry of Planning (MOP) has been designated to lead the nationalization exercise of the SDGs. After two years, the MOP has fully developed a Cambodian SDGs (CSDGs) Framework. The Framework includes proposals on how the goals would be integrated within Cambodia's policy and delivery systems.

### ***Integration and nationalization of the SDGs***

Coordinated by the MOP, the localization process of the SDGs in Cambodia began with the assessment of achievements and unfinished goals of the CMDGs in relation to the goals, targets and indicators of the SDGs. Priority is given to the coordination of the planning and implementation of the SDGs with local development strategies as the National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP). Assessments are also made on the alignment of the SDGs with these current national development planning and policies to identify gaps and determine where plans and policies do not align with the SDG targets.

The RGC partnered with the United Nations agencies in developing two preliminary analyses of potential tasks – the Rapid Integrated Assessment (RIA) 2016 and the SDG Assessment conducted in 2017. The RIA mapped Cambodia's NSDP and other principal strategies to offer areas of alignment between the SDGs and Cambodia's policy agenda, while the SDG assessment focused on the indicators and availability of reliable data sources. The Royal Government of Cambodia then fully adapted the SDGs framework to fit to the Cambodian context to include national needs, challenges, aspirations, and has linked with it the NSDP with relevant monitoring framework. This is to be achieved through embedding the goals in the NSDP and through the inclusion

of targets with line ministry and agency Budget Strategy Plans (which form part of Cambodia's performance-based budgeting arrangements).

### **1.3 Why present a Voluntary National Review (VNR) in 2019?**

The RGC initiated preparation for the delivery of a Voluntary National Review (VNR) Report at the 2019 session of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. This process was led and coordinated by the General Directorate of Planning (GDP) in the MOP.

The purpose of the VNR is to report on progress towards establishing the instruments and institutions to deliver sustainable and inclusive development in Cambodia and the RGC's plans for accelerated actions. Equally, it offers an opportunity to share experiences with peer countries, enable assessment of Cambodia's CSDG Framework and to strengthen mechanisms to engage a wider group of stakeholders in delivering the 2030 Agenda.

The VNR process requires member states submit a written text by June 2019 and make a verbal presentation at the HLPF scheduled for July 2019 (see timeline below). Cambodia will be reporting for the first time alongside 48 other countries (including 8 second time reporters). Cambodia is one of the final Southeast Asian Countries to undertake a VNR, following Laos PDR and Vietnam in 2018, and Thailand in 2017.

The VNR is important both as a participatory process itself and as a measurement of the progress made towards achieving SDGs. The VNR provides opportunities for RGC to assess works done in the scope of SDGs and shape opportunities for innovative and impactful solutions towards achieving the RGC's longer vision of 2030 and 2050, respectively.

The RGC has considered the VNR to be a learning process. It provides a golden opportunity to also accelerate Cambodia's efforts to reach upper middle-income status by 2030, on the basis of shared prosperity and environmental sustainability.

1. The VNR process has deepened the understanding of the multi-dimensional and cross-sectoral nature of the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda. The SDGs are not just MDG 2.0, rather a comprehensive set of goals, where success in one SDG means addressing challenges and gaps in other goals. The review has been instrumental to discuss common challenges of inter-sectoral coordination to "break down the silos" and work together across ministries to achieve targets.
2. The VNR process has been important in building capacities across government. By conducting an honest stock take or assessment of what would it take to achieve inclusive and sustainable development, leaving no one behind in Cambodia, we are one step closer to taking action and mobilize support.
3. VNR process to achieve national development priorities – VNRs through broad based stakeholder engagement can identify new partners who need to be part of the solution. SDGs are not only government's responsibility. Private sector, academia, civil society, youth all play a part.

4. The VNR process has started to galvanize innovation and new forms of financing for development needed to achieve the CSDGs, such as how can tax revenues or ODA crowd in private investments to deliver development outcomes, and sparked discussions on a development finance architecture that is able to track and direct financial and investment flows that can stimulate economic growth and accelerate social and environmental gains.

The global theme of the 2019 HLPF will be 'Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality.' While countries are encouraged to review all the goals of national priorities, the set of goals to be reviewed by this year's HLPF are:

1. SDG 4 (quality education),
2. SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth),
3. SDG 10 (reduced inequalities),
4. SDG 13 (climate action),
5. SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions), and
6. SDG 17 (partnerships for the Goals).

The RGC will report on these priority goals in detail, while also providing an overview of progress against all of the global 17 SDGs. The Cambodia VNR will also set out the national CSDGs Framework (of 18 goals, 88 targets and 148 indicators), noting the additional national goal for demining, the adoption of targets applicable to the national context, and a fully tailored set of indicators. A key innovation is the extent to which the CSDGs have been integrated within national policymaking. There are two linkages: to the NSDP where they provide a large proportion of the M&E data; and via proposed inclusion in agency and ministry Budget Strategic Plans.

## Section 2: Methodology, Process, and Inputs for the Review

This review is based on a mixed research approach which consists of stock taking of the current position, desk reviews, and interviews within key stakeholders to evaluate progresses, challenges, and key policies to accelerate CSDGs. Key documents reviewed included the Rectangular Strategy IV, the CSDGs Framework 2016-2030, and the drafted NSDP 2019-2023, as well as other sectoral strategic plans. These were thoroughly examined to get a better understanding of progresses and challenges by goals and indicators of each CSDG. A complete list of documents is given in the reference section.

A template for collecting inputs for VNR from key stakeholders has been developed to facilitate and standardize data format and data collection process. Secondary data from available source is collected to analyze trends of each CSDG, prior to meetings to collect inputs from stakeholders. This secondary data has two advantages. First, it helps stakeholders to quickly know availability of data and source for CSDGs which are related to their activities, and to verify whether that information is valid. Second, the information will be used for CSDGs which have limited information from key stakeholders.

The MOP in partnership with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia the Pacific (UNESCAP) and the United Nations Country Team in Cambodia organized a VNR inception workshop. This event initiated the preparation process.

Its objectives were: (1) Presentation of the RGC's key plans and policies and their alignment to the CSDGs; (2) Explanation of the general guidelines and timeline for the preparation of the 2019 VNR; (3) Exploration of various challenges and opportunities - data, policy coherence and means of SDG implementation; and (4) Informing and drawing diverse stakeholders into the process (including development partners and the UN system).

The outcome of the workshop was a shared understanding of main steps and methods required for the preparation of Cambodia's 2019 VNR, including identification of key themes. The workshop also facilitated further agreement between the RGC and partners on the next steps; namely the resources for data and analysis, and the partnerships and institutional processes need for the successful preparation of the VNR. This also required that attention was given to meaningful stakeholder engagement on the VNR process and beyond. Efforts were made during plenaries, and via electronic media tools, to promote wide stakeholder engagement.

A separate consultative meeting with CSOs was also conducted to discuss challenges and necessary actions required to meet the timeframe as well as appropriate consultation, communications/ coordination needed to take place in particular with line ministries under the leadership of NIS/MOP to identify any new data content that has been made available for the SDG indicators since the 2017 study carried out by UNSD, and next steps with the revised timelines.

Consultative workshops were conducted both at the technical level and at the policy-making level to verify data, validate inputs, and to collect further information and feedbacks to refine a draft VNR report as well as to approve on key messages of the report.



## Section 3: Policy and Enabling Environment

### **3.1 Creating ownership of the Sustainable Development Goals**

The SDGs underpin the wider Sustainable Development Agenda, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly's 2015 session, and herald new priorities and thinking on global development needs and directions. Foremost, the SDGs recognize the twin global priorities of delivering environmental sustainability (and specifically the threat posed by climate change) and the ongoing priority of eradicating poverty - and emphasize the centrality of securing equity, under the strapline *leaving no one behind*. As opposed to the MDGs which were more focused on the social issues, the SDGs focus on all aspects of sustainability, including the importance of the economic and the environmental dimension. They are also more expansive, running to 17 goals and 169 targets (compared to the MDG's 8 goals and 48 targets), and are markedly more ambitious by seeking absolute reductions and strict equalities while the previous Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) has 8 goals and 48 targets. Additionally, unlike the MDGs, the SDGs include both development outcomes (eradicate poverty, end gender inequality etc.) with guiding goals (decent employment and economic growth, responsible consumption and production etc.). This combination and the level of ambition ensures that the SDGs offer a comprehensive and integrated development planning tracking framework.

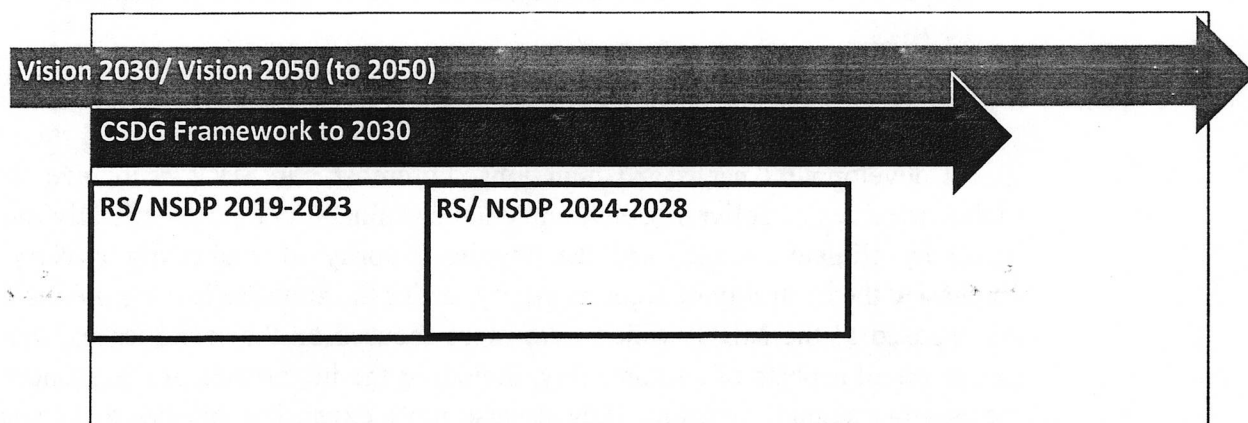
Cambodia started this process in late 2015 by reviewing and mapping the global goals and targets to national priorities. All 17 SDGs were selected and one additional goal, related to clearance of land mines and of Explosive Remnants of War (reflecting the national priority of de-mining Cambodia's territory), was added. This resulted in a final version comprising: 18 CSDGs, 88 targets, including 84 of the global targets and 4 national targets.

### **3.2 Incorporating the Sustainable Development Goals in national frameworks**

The CSDG framework, alongside the Government's socioeconomic platform – set out in the Rectangular Strategy (RS) provides the basis for the new cycle of the National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP). The Royal Government prepared the new Rectangular Strategy which was endorsed after the last election in July 2018. It is important to also bear in mind that in line with the global goals, the CSDGs frame a longer period running to 2030 and are therefore a counterpart to the Government's Vision 2050, with several electoral planning cycles spanning the period (see Figure 1).

The CSDGs also place a high emphasis on leaving no one behind so that all Cambodians share in the country's future development and prosperity. This is matched with a commitment to sustainability, to developing while also protecting the nation's abundant natural capital for current and future generations, and to playing Cambodia's part in combating climate change.

Figure 1: CSDG and National Strategic Development Plan Timelines



The CSDG Framework has four specific objectives:

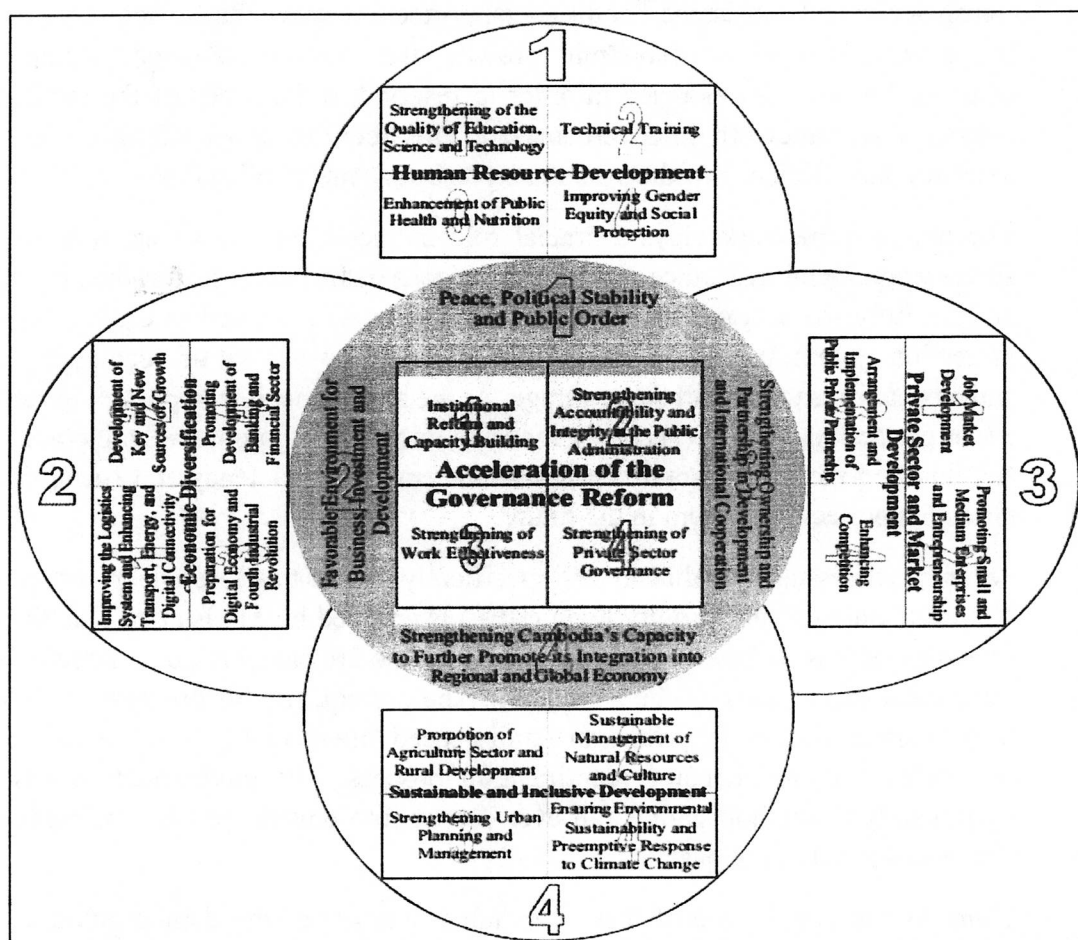
- ✓ Presentation of the national goals, targets, and indicators based on Cambodia's priorities;
- ✓ Identification of the agencies responsible for oversight and conducting activities to achieve the targets and monitoring schedules;
- ✓ Identification of data sources for each indicator, and the data cycle, with a provision of working definitions and methods for calculating indicators;
- ✓ Presentation of pathways towards achievement of targets, setting (2015) national baselines, setting annual (or cycle-based) target values, and the implementation at sub-national level.

The framework is not an action plan for delivery of the goals per se, but rather it seeks to lay out the groundwork for integrating the CSDGs into the national planning process and monitoring achievements via the efforts and actions of the Royal Government, the private sector, citizens, development partners and other stakeholders. As such, it sets out the institutional and socioeconomic context, defines the CSDGs, and sets out the Cambodian Sustainable Development Goals Framework 2016-2030.

### **3.3 Integrating the three dimensions of sustainable and inclusive development**

Integration of economic, social and environmental dimensions is key to achieving sustainable development. There is, in general, a widespread acceptance of why the integration of the three dimensions is necessary; however, questions arise as to how this integration is to be achieved. Cambodia has progressed well on this front. These three dimensions are mainstreamed into strategic planning both at the national and at the sub-national levels. At the national level, the core framework of the Rectangular Strategy IV specifies four policy rectangles: (1) Human resource development; (2) Economic diversification; (3) Private sector development and employment; and (4) Inclusive sustainable development. These are set out below.

Figure 2: Rectangular Strategy Phase IV



At the sub-national level, a sub-decree on five-year development plan and 3 year rolling plan at provincial level was promulgated in 2009. At provincial level, a five-year development plan is developed, endorsed by the provincial councilors. The preparation of the development plan is to support the RS by identifying priority areas, indicators, timeframe for the implementation of the plans, the monitoring and evaluation mechanism, responsibilities of the implementing agencies and relevant stakeholders, under the framework of provincial administration. The planning processes address 4 main challenges including (1) economy, (2) social development, (3) natural resources, environment, and climate change adaptation, and (4) security.

### 3.4 Leaving no one behind

In line with the vision of increasing the status of Cambodia to become an upper-middle income country by 2030 and a high-income country by 2050, but also to do this on the basis of an inclusive economy, the government has identified three key policy developments. These are explicitly given within the RS IV in Rectangle 1, centered on Human Resource Development. The first is the development of a broad “National Social Protection Policy Framework 2016-2025” to create a strategic plan to ensure income security and reduce economic and financial vulnerability of its citizens. It will increase people’s well-being and solidarity in the society and aims at reducing poverty to a maximum extent. The policy framework aligns, concentrates and improves the

existing social protection programs/schemes and enhances the efficiency, equity, transparency and consistency of the social protection system as a whole. Depending on the country's level of economic growth, the current coverage, which is still considerably low, is expanded in order to respond to the needs of the citizens in all segments. A framework on governance and cross-cutting issues will also be developed to ensure the efficiency of the system and its budgetary implications.

The policy framework plays a crucial role in increasing the accessibility of social security and social assistance services for citizens in the public sector, the private sector and the informal sector. To realize the new vision as indicated in Cambodia's social protection system, the Royal Government will step-by-step set up necessary programs and mechanisms to expand the coverage. At the same time, it is important to reform the social protection system, especially focusing on protecting poor and vulnerable groups and building the infrastructure necessary for ensuring efficiency and sustainability of the social protection system in the future.

Second, is the issue of healthcare and specifically, access to affordable quality provision. The Cambodian Health Equity Fund (HEF) is adopted by Ministry of Health. HEF is providing access to free health care to people who are categorized as extremely poor. They are around a fifth of the population. The prerequisite for this care is a so-called IDPoor status with an individual or family based "membership" card, which is issued as part of a comprehensive identification process. The government wants to see significantly fewer households fall ever deeper into poverty because of medical bills than was normal in the past.

Third, taking cognizance of these inevitable changes of the demographic situations especially realizing the rising proportion of older population, as population ageing is defined, affects not just the older persons but all parts of society and all sectors of the economy. The RGC revised the Policy for the Elderly 2003 and renamed it as "National Ageing Policy 2017-2030". With the aim of ensuring a comprehensive national ageing policy and taking into account the projected demographic changes and the need to mainstream ageing into the development planning process, the revised Policy is based on three fundamental concepts: (1) to eliminate age-based discrimination so that older persons are guaranteed the same rights as younger persons and treated at par with them in all respects; (2) to ensure gender equality by focusing more on women who form the majority of the older population and are more vulnerable than their male contemporaries and (3) to promote intergenerational relations so as to maintain the strength of the joint family system, a hallmark of Khmer culture. The overall vision of the Policy is to ensure that older persons are enabled to fully participate with freedom and dignity for as long as they wish to in family, community, economic, social, religious and political activities; and that younger persons are better equipped with knowledge that enables them to lead a more productive, healthy, active and dignified life in old age.

### **3.5 Securing environmental sustainability**

Additionally, in achieving the Vision 2030 and 2050, the Government is cognizant of the need to place stronger emphasis on the environmental impacts of rapid social and economic development. Greater attention will be given to better management of natural

resources and responding to the impacts of climate change. This is explicitly recognized in Rectangle 4 of RS IV. Two specific policy initiatives are relevant.

Firstly, there is a need to improve the management of Cambodia's abundant forests and watercourses. For this reason, Environmental and Natural Resource Code was drafted to enable the sustainable development of Cambodia, by protecting the environment and conserving, managing, and restoring natural and cultural resources.

Secondly, efforts are needed to mitigate the effects of rising temperatures. In this regard, Cambodia Climate Change Strategic Plan 2014 – 2023 (CCCSP) has formulated to reflect political will, firm commitment and readiness of the RGC for reducing climate change impacts on national development, and contributing, with the international community, to global efforts for mitigating GHG emissions under the UNFCCC. Integration of climate change into national and sub-national level planning, and the development of climate change strategies, action plans and financing frameworks are among the priority actions of the RGC. The CCCSP will guide national entities and assist non-governmental organizations and development partners in developing concrete and appropriate measures and actions related to adaptation and GHG mitigation, which are the supportive pillars for the achievement of the Rectangular Strategy and Cambodia Millennium Development Goals.

### **3.6 Institutional mechanisms**

Cambodia has volunteered to present the Voluntary National Review (VNR) at the United Nations High-Level Political Forum (UNHLPF) in July 2019, in New York. The MOP takes the lead in this country-driven process of the review of and reporting on CSDGs. To prepare for the VNR process, MOP needs to gather and consolidate inputs from and join effort with line-ministries as well as CSOs working in sectors corresponding to the goals.



## Section 4:

# Progress on goals and targets

## **4.1 In-depth Review of 6 SDGs: Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality**

This section reviews in some detail, the six global prioritized goals, specifically CSDGs 4, 8, 10, 13, 16 and 17. In addition to more in-depth discussion – of progress to date, challenges and policy actions, each includes the full CSDG baseline and progress data.

### ***CSDG 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all***

#### **Progress**

Available data suggest Cambodia's significant progress on many fronts in the education sector (Table 1). The completion rate at primary, and secondary levels and the proportion of grade 1 students who passed through all ECE programs has increased from 80.6%, 39.2%, and 64.1% in 2015 to 86.1%, 47.6% and 72%, respectively, in 2018. Similarly, Cambodia achieved gender parity in education sector, and is beginning to tilt in the favor of girls in recent years.

The gender parity index of gross enrollment rate at both lower secondary education and upper secondary education improved from 1.1 in 2015 to 1.2 in 2018. Adult literacy rate also increased from 80.5% to 82.5% over 2015-2018. Comparing to targets set in CSDG framework, except the completion rate at primary school, the figures suggest that all other targets, where data is available, are being attained or in some cases exceeded. This has been as a result of a concerted efforts by the Royal Government of Cambodia and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MoEYS), through the implementation of Education Strategic Plan 2014 – 2018.

#### **Challenges**

While continuing with the impressive progress, a number of challenges remain, including: (1) continued access related issues for the children in remote areas, especially those who are poor and disadvantaged at all levels of education and training; (2) teacher shortages, e.g. recent increase in number of pre-school enrollments putting pressure on the pupil teacher ratio; (3) transition from primary to lower-secondary and high drop-out rates at the lower-secondary levels (4) inadequate quality teaching and learning materials, and supportive supervision and professional development; (5) quality issue of teachers due to the lack of appropriately trained and qualified teachers from pre-primary to tertiary educators, (6) life-long learning, which is a key to life-long employment and allow adoption of skills and knowledge to the structural change of the economy, remains a new concept for many people, (7) limited institutional and technical capacities and financing gaps for effective implementation of policies including coordination issue among the various sectors, and (8) the limited capacities of the education management information system to effectively monitor the CSDG-4 indicators and targets within and beyond the education sector e.g. TVET.

#### **Key Policies/Accelerating Strategies**

To respond to the Royal Government of Cambodia's development priorities of attaining upper-middle income country status by 2030 and developed country status by 2050,

and to attain the education related CSDG, the MoEYS has developed and adopted the National Education 2030 Roadmap for CSDG4 so that global targets are aligned with national policy and planning. The Roadmap provides the overarching framework for a long-term holistic sector-wide approach for the development and delivery of education services and set priorities and strategies on how Cambodia will achieve these targets. As noted above, the CSDG4 is well aligned with Government's development priorities outlined in the RS IV. Improved general education, vocational and competence skills, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation and a healthy life style are core components in Rectangle 1 of the RS IV. Side 1 of the Rectangle 1 is the strengthening of the quality of education, science and technology with the objective of "quality, equitable and inclusive education system". Side 2 touches on the Technical Training with an aim to ensure that "each individual youth specializes in at least one skill in life". Side 4 is about improving gender equity and social protection to enhance social-economic situation and strengthen the role of women.

**Table 1: Progress of CSDG 4**

	Indicators	unit	CSDG target				Actual			Progress
			2015	2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018	
4.1.1.1	Completion rate at primary school	%	80.0	81.2	82.6	83.9	82.5	82.8	86.1	Ahead
4.1.1.2	Completion rate at lower secondary school	%	39.0	40.7	42.1	43.6	44.5	46.5	47.6	Ahead
4.2.1	Proportion of grade 1 students passed through all ECE programs (sex aggregate)	%	62.0	64.1	66.3	68.5	64.0	65.0	72.0	Ahead
4.2.2	Percentage of children attended all aspects of ECE (aged 3-5 years old)	%	21.0	22.9	24.9	26.8	41.0	43.1	39.9	Ahead
4.3.1	Gross enrollment rate for tertiary education (18-21 years old by sex)	%	14.0	16.4	18.8	21.2	10.9	10.5	11.6	Below
	Male						-	-	-	-
	Female						-	-	-	-
4.3.2	Gross enrollment rate in technical-vocational education programs (15-24 years old) by sex	%	0.0	2.4	4.7	7.0	-	-	-	
	Male									
	Female									
4.5.1	The Gender Parity Index (GPI) of gross enrollment rate at lower secondary education	Index	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.2	Below
4.5.2	The Gender Parity Index (GPI) of Gross Enrollment Rate at Upper Secondary Education	Index	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.2	Below
4.6.1	Adult literacy rate (15+year)	%	78.0	79.6	81.0	82.5	84.4	82.5	-	Ahead
4.a.1	Proportion of pre, primary and secondary school with basic drinking water facilities	%	27.0	30.5	34.1	37.6	47.9	48.2	46.7	Below
4.a.2	Proportion of pre, primary school and secondary schools with basic sanitation facilities	%	57.0	60.2	63.1	65.9	62.5	69.0	68.7	Ahead
4.a.3	Percentage of schools with adapted infrastructure and materials for students with disabilities	%	0.0	1.3	2.7	4.0	-	-	-	-
4.c.1	Proportion of teachers in pre-primary, primary, lower secondary, and upper secondary education who have received pre-service or in service training	%	99.0	99.0	99.0	99.1	98.7	98.4	99.3	Ahead
4.c.2	Percentage of pre-school teachers qualified according to national standards	%	56.0	57.6	59.2	60.8	62.1	63.6	64.0	Ahead
4.c.3	Percentage of primary teachers qualified according to national standards	%	61.0	62.9	64.9	66.8	70.2	72.1	73.0	Ahead

4.c.4	Percentage of secondary teachers qualified according national standards	%	32.0	34.5	37.1	39.6	85.8	85.0	86.0	Ahead
4.c.5	Percentage of teachers who receive in service training	%	2.0	3.9	5.7	7.6	-	-	-	-

Sources: CSDG Framework and EMIS/MoEYS

The Royal Government of Cambodia has initiated a number of key policy and strategic interventions for the period 2019–2023, which includes:

- i. Articulation of a clear vision and mission for the Education System for a knowledgeable-society by 2030 with the MoEYS leading the direction of education development to ensure that all schools transform themselves into learning organizations ensuring high quality education for all through competent, motivated and well-supported teachers in the smart classrooms providing the best opportunities to learn to all students and committed students acquiring both hard and soft skills, sound moral judgement, emotional intelligence as well as a strong sense of national and global citizenship that enables them to contribute to and actively participate in the society.
- ii. Continuing the consistent increase in public expenditures in education line with the global goal of 4%-6% of GDP by 2030.
- iii. Systematically increasing the coverage of early-childhood care and education to reach 82%, Primary completion to 91.1%, Lower-Secondary completion to 61.1%, Upper-Secondary completion to 45%, TVET GER to 35% and Tertiary GER to 25% by 2030.
- iv. Systematically implementing the teacher reforms addressing the issues of recruitment, training, deployment, continuous professional development, mentoring/on-site support and career pathways.
- v. Providing institutionalized in-service training for teachers at all levels in line with the MoEYS CPD policy of 100 hours per year.
- vi. Scaling-up Early Grade Learning (EGL) to enhance reading, writing and mathematics to provide solid foundations for learners to succeed in higher grades.
- vii. Strengthening implementation and monitoring of inclusive education policies, including provision of targeted scholarships for learners from all disadvantaged groups to ensure equity and “no-one” is left behind.
- viii. Bringing the educational reforms in the class-rooms by enhancing the capacities of the school principals, school management committees and stakeholders through training and implementation of school-based management.
- ix. Reforming and revising the curriculum to integrate the 21<sup>st</sup> century skills including the inquiry-based learning, communication skills and problem solving.
- x. Conducting systematic assessment of student learning at Grades 3, 6, 8 and 11 to monitor learning of students as per the curriculum objectives.
- xi. Introducing and expanding flexible learning opportunities and academic equivalency programs particularly at the secondary level to enable young-people to continue learning and skilling themselves using ICTs.
- xii. Consistently improving and increasing the budget allocation to the schools to meet the needs of teaching and learning in the class-rooms and strengthening capacities for financial management and accountability.

- xiii. Strengthening internal and external quality assurances in higher education and encourage learners to enroll in STEM education in tertiary and higher education.
- xiv. Implementing the National Strategy for Development of Education Statistics to strengthen the over-all coordination and monitoring of SDG-4 implementation.

#### **Case Study 1: Volunteerism promoting inclusive education and youth engagement in Cambodia**

Volunteers can be brokers of engagement, connecting institutional initiative with volunteer action at community level and strengthen local governance. They can facilitate and support people's engagement in planning, implementing and monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), thereby fostering local ownership and leveraging innovating development solutions from the ground up. Volunteerism, therefore, has much to contribute by way of harnessing the power and participation of individuals and communities to empower those who are furthest behind and address some of the social exclusion that exists as a result of poverty, gender, disability, ethnicity and other causes of inequality.

Young people aged 10-24 account for about two-thirds of the country's population<sup>1</sup>. Each year, roughly 300,000 young people enter the labor market<sup>2</sup>. However, technical and competency skills of young people need to be substantively strengthened to meet the increasing demands for skillful employees. Echoing the policy focus of the Royal Government of Cambodia on curriculum reform to integrate the 21<sup>st</sup> century skills, MoEYS, Cambodia, and the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) has launched three youth volunteering pilot programs, including:

1. Volunteering for community services
2. Volunteering for social entrepreneurship
3. Volunteering on school holidays

The three pilot programs aim to improve skills including teamwork, problem solving and inquiry-based learning among young people. Moreover, they also endeavor to capacitate young people as solutions for sustainable development through volunteering opportunities.

From October 2018, the three pilot programs have mobilized 1,350 young volunteers in seven provinces of Cambodia, who provided community development services to over 9,000 people. The services provided by young volunteers encompass diverse topics related to Sustainable Development Goals, ranging from organic agriculture and child health to water, sanitation and waste management. It is worth noting that services provided by young volunteers effectively complement those provided by the government, especially in the poor and remote communities.

What underlines the services of young volunteers is the inclusive nature of volunteerism itself. Among the volunteers participating in the three piloting programs, almost half are women, and a lot of them originate from the poor rural families. In addition to chances of skills strengthening, volunteerism provides equal opportunities for all young people to learn and grow their knowledge on community services. In this way, volunteerism has become the vehicle expanding inclusive education opportunities, enabling all young people to learn and exchange knowledge in a participatory approach.

Witnessing the power of volunteerism in engaging youth as a part of development solutions, it is encouraging to learn that the Prime Minister has officially identified establishing volunteering network at the grassroot level as one of the five strategic recommendations at the 2019 National Education Congress.

<sup>1</sup> A third of the population of 16 million people under 15 years old and a fifth between 15-24 years old

<sup>2</sup> ILO (2012) Asia-Pacific Labour Market Update



## ***CSDG 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all***

### **Progress**

Cambodia has achieved steady economic growth for the last two decades of around 7.0 percent and attained lower middle-income status in 2015. With its current population of 16.1 million, Cambodia's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita is estimated to have reached USD 1,555 in 2018, compared with USD 1,207 in 2015, growing around 5.7% in real term. The percentage of Cambodians living under that national poverty line fell around 1% per year on average down to around 10% in 2018. The direct contribution of Travel and Tourism to GDP in 2018 was 124.4% of GDP. In 2018, Travel and Tourism directly made up 5.7% of total employment. Cambodia's economy is forecasted to continue to grow robustly, with growing structural change in favour of industrial development, from 27.7% in 2015 to 32.8% in 2018 and 38.2% in 2022, as the share of agriculture continues to decline. Financial services and banking sector has been growing sharply in the past decade and more soundly in the past 4 years, with credit growth brought under control.

### **Challenges**

Despite such considerable progress, CSDG 8 face some remaining challenges. First, Cambodia's manufacturing base is still narrow and small. It is therefore, crucial for Cambodia to diversify its manufacturing base and to move up the value chain, moving away from labor-intensive industries alone to those industries that demand a semi-skilled workforce, instead of relying only on garments. This needs to upskill the country's human capital through education and vocational training, which will enable investors to set up production facilities that require a more skilled workforce and more productive technologies. Paralleling this, has been the slowing down of structural change from agriculture to industry, and crucially also, within industry to higher capital-intensive activities. Construction is increasingly dominant as a driver of year-on-year growth, but in turn is being potentially driven by land and property speculation, which is unlikely sustainable.

Second, although there has been a remarkable increase in the number of registered companies, many companies remain informal, while other have not provided a timely update of their statuses. Related to IP, there is a lack of skilled officials what can take a quick action on any matter. Knowledge about IP is limited, and there is a lack of facilities to support the process. The issuance of certificate of origin in special economic zones still have room for improvement.

Third, industrial development has been hampered by the lack of quality electricity, skills and logistics. The industrial Development Policy has been under implementation with limited progress.

Fourth, the development of tourism faces a number of challenges, including: (1) lack of infrastructure to support the sector growth and diversification, (2) lack of connectivity to potential tourism sites, (3) low diversification of tourism (Siem Reap is almost the sole destination), and (4) low quality of services and products that support the sector.



**Table 2: Progress of CSDG 8**

Indicators		unit	CSDG targets				Actual			Progress
			2015	2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018	
8.1	Real annual growth rate of GDP per capita	%	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	6.9	7.0	On track
8.2.2	Growth rate of Commercial registrations, Trade markings, Certificates of autoimmune origin		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8.2.2.1	Growth rate of automatic commercial listing	%	22.3	-34.6	29.8	3.7	0.1	-11.6	92.7	Ahead
8.2.2.2	Growth rate of automatic brand registrations	%	22.5	-12.8	2.5	-0.6	4.1	-11.1	-9.6	Below
8.2.2.3	Growth rate of certificate of authenticating origin	%	22.0	21.9	18.0	15.2	21.9	41.0	36.0	Ahead
8.2.3	Processing or development of products (both goods and services) through all available means of the OVOP concept		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8.2.3.1	All kinds of products, both goods and services that have been processed or developed and have been included in OVOP moment	No. of types of products	75	-	-	75	-	-	-	-
8.2.3.2	Number of types of products both goods and services that have been processed or developed with OVOP standard criteria	No. of types of products	50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8.3.1	Growth rate of number of companies registered in the chamber of commerce (%)	%	-	-	-	-	11	33	21	-
8.9.1	Tourism Direct Gross Domestic Product (TDGDP) as the proportion of total GDP in the growth rate	%	12.5	12.5	12.8	12.8	11.9	12.3	12.7	On track
8.9.2	Proportion of employees in tourism industry among total employees in all sectors	%	7	7	7	7	4.7	5.2	5.7	Below
8.a.1	Aid for trade commitment and disbursement for Cambodia	% of GDP	0.018	0.018	0.017	0.016	0.03	0.1	0.02	Ahead

### **Key Policies/Accelerating Strategies**

While focusing on the growth, the RGC also needs to ensure that the growth is inclusive through productive employment and decent work for all. Therefore, a number of policies have been introduced. To achieve a Decent Work Agenda, in 2015, the National Employment Policy (NEP) 2015–2025 was developed with the key elements of the policy strongly connected with the decent work agenda. At the same time Industrial Development Policy (2015-2025) was also prepared and adopted as a guide to promote the country's industrial development that will help maintain sustainable and inclusive high economic growth through economic diversification, strengthening

competitiveness and promoting productivity. Furthermore, released in May 2016, the 'China Ready' programme's main objective is to maximize the potential of the rapid rise in China's outbound tourism by encouraging businesses in Cambodia's tourism industry to hire Mandarin-speaking staff, translate menus and promotional posters, facilitate payment in yuan and offer ecotourism options.

Most recently, 17 reform measures were introduced to improve Cambodia's competitiveness by reducing logistic costs and attracting foreign direct investment. RGC made a move to set up Skills Development Fund (SDF) managed by the MEF to stimulate pragmatic public-private partnership projects in bridging the skills gaps in the economy. It is expected to attract higher value-added investments and generating decent jobs. In 2018, RGC issued a Sub-degree to provide tax break to SMEs for up to 5 years. In addition, SME Bank and Entrepreneurship Development Fund and Entrepreneurship Promotion Centre have been created by the Ministry of Economy of Finance and are expected to be up and running in 2019. This is in part to move the IDP. In early 2019, Government formed a working group to formulate "digital economy policy framework" with an aim to instigate and facilitate the growth of technologies in the Cambodian economy. Moreover, RGC has started to mainstream technologies in addition to gender and climate change adaptation in development projects financed by development partners.

## **CSDG 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries**

### **Progress**

Based on CSES consumption data, inequality in Cambodia began to increase between 2004 and 2007 but has declined since then. The share of total consumption of the poorest 20% of households increased slightly from 7.5% in 2007 to 8.5% in 2009 and 9.3% in 2012, whereas the share of total consumption of the richest 20% of households decreased from 46% in 2007 to 41% in 2009 (World Bank 2013). By 2009, the Gini coefficient of inequality was lower than it was in 2004 (Figure 3).

On average, the richest 20% of households consume five times more than the poorest 20% (Figure 3). Households in the bottom 20% of the distribution (Quintile 1) consumed an average of \$0.70 per person per day. Phnom Penh households' average consumption was \$3 per person per day, more than double that of rural households, and where food comprised 51% of the average Phnom Penh family's total consumption, for rural families it was 61% (MOP 2013).

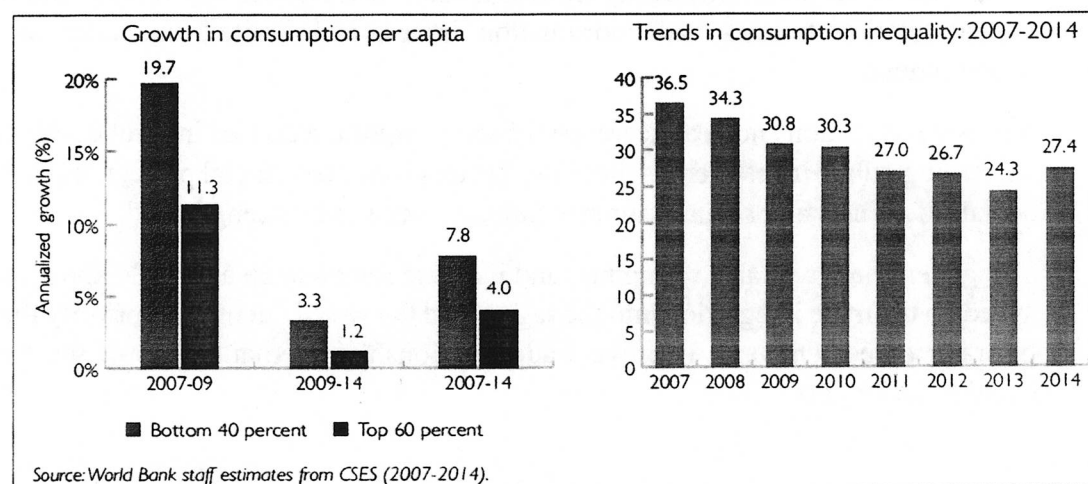
From the beginning of implementation until the end of 2018, the result achieved 5,127,819 land titles equivalent to 73.25% of the 7 million quotation mark, exceeding the 3.25% plan compared to the strategic plan indicators of NSDP 2014-2018, which has registered land of indigenous communities reached 24 communities equal 684 land titles, size 22,682.06 hectares equal to 2,558 families.

RGC has adopted the National Policy on Housing and Policy on Incentives and Establishment of the National Program for Affordable Housing Development; has built a number of affordable houses in Phnom Penh and Kandal province; has developed information technology (IT) system for the management of property construction data by connecting to Geographical Information System (GIS) of Google Maps; has granted land titles, social land concessions and built houses for families of soldiers and police officers, families of deceased soldiers, veterans with disability who are living in poverty without land/houses currently based along the borders. All social land concession programs have provided land to a total population of 78,545 households equaling 140,765.47 hectares and constructed houses for a total population of 6,699 and decided to provide over 1.2 million hectares equal to 71 Land titles for approximately 400,000 families through the implementation of "Old political issues New activities in the land sector".

RGC has made tremendous effort needed to be made with regards to international trade which is one of the key drivers to reduce inequality among countries. Growth rate of trade agreement: Through the accumulation number, the number of trade agreement consist of 76 in 2016 and will consist of 209 in 2022 – with the average growth rate 21%.

**Table 3: Progress of CSDG 10**

Indicator		unit	CSDG targets				Actual			Progress
			2015	2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018	
10.1.1	Growth rate of household expenditure or income per capita among the bottom 40 percent of the population and the total population (MOP)	%	520.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10.2.1	Proportion of people living below 50 percent of median income, by age, sex and persons with disabilities (MOP, CSES)	%	53.1	51.5	-	-	-	-	-	-
10.4.1	Civil servants, retirees and invalid (MoSVY)	Number	52,274	52,274	54,092	55,702	-	-	56353.0	Above
10.a.1	Number of international agreements (MOC)	Number	20.0	21.0	19.0	21.0	23.0	21.0	21.0	On track
10.b.1	Total official development assistance for Cambodia in Million US\$ (CRDB/CDC)	Million USD	1,425	1,425	1,425	1,425	1,286.6	1,435.5	1,412.9	Below

**Figure 3: Trends of consumption inequality 2007-2014**

### Challenges

There is no comprehensive study on the root causes and implications of inequality in Cambodia. The studies by the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank showed that there is a huge consumption gap between the households in urban areas and those in rural areas. Inequality, especially the development gap between urban and rural areas, in the country has led to a huge flow of internal and cross-border labor migration. The number of internal migrant workers is about one million and the number of cross-border migrant workers hit more than one million. While this is an equalizing process, RGC also recognizes the importance of better managing population flows, and the urbanization process.

There is a limited coverage of social services. The link between the ID card and ID poor has not been connected into a system for a good management of information about the poor and vulnerable. There is a lack of capacity to assess disabilities; and as a result, some disabled/invalid persons are left behind. Social protection reforms hold much promise for keeping inequality in check, and promoting redistribution alongside a safety net to support economic activity.

The labour market also has been key to the inclusiveness of the economy in Cambodia, with strikingly high levels of participants regardless of gender. The Royal Government has facilitated this by allowing a free labour market alongside a basic regulatory framework, including minimum wage provisions in regularized employment.

Despite government efforts to accelerate international trade, strengthening and increasing the trade integration into the world through trade agreement meet some challenges including, (1) few amount of types and quantity of product into international market, (2) quality control and standard requirement are not broad yet, (3) export price is still high (high production cost), and (4) non-tariff barrier on Cambodia's product.

#### **Key Policies/Accelerating Strategies**

To reduce inequality, the government will continue to focus on pro-poor rural development. According to a study by the Asian Development Bank, the main rural development issues are insecurity in land tenure, low productivity in land and human capital, market failures and coordination issues, and limited financing for rural development.

Inclusive education and healthcare are the most important sectors in rural development. Increasing public investment in these two sectors is needed. Social protection, including social safety nets and social insurance policies, need to be strengthened.

The government will also strengthen and increase relationship and trade agreements to speed up the trade integration into the region and the world, identify as priority the topic of trade agreement, and improve trade relationship internationally in the term of equality and equity.

## ***CSDG 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts***

### **Progress**

Cambodia is the most vulnerable country to the climate change in the region and among the top 10 countries globally. The Ministry of Environment and General Secretariat of the National Council for Sustainable Development has committed to implement the CSDG indicators, particularly CSDG 13 (climate action) with achieving the significant results such as establishment of technical working group for implementing the sustainable development goals in environment and sustainable sector, climate change technical working group (CCTWG), integrated climate change in rectangular strategic IV 2018-2023, National Strategic Development Plan 2019-2023, increasing annual public expenditure for climate change programme, and climate change action plans by sectors, green growth strategic and policy, ratify the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, etc.

Cambodia's Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) which was submitted to UNFCCC has reflected on Cambodia's voluntary GHGs emissions targets including:

- A reduction of 27% (or 3,100 Gg CO<sub>2</sub>eq) of projected 2030 baseline of 11,600 Gg CO<sub>2</sub>eq in the energy, manufacturing and transport sectors.
- Working towards forest cover of 60% of total land area, predicted to reduce emissions by 4.7 tCO<sub>2</sub>eq/ha/year compared to what would be the case if there had been more deforestation.
- Limiting the reduction of how much emissions land in Cambodia sequesters to a minimum of 7,897 GgCO<sub>2</sub> in 2030 compared an estimated sequestration potential of 18,492 GgCO<sub>2</sub> in 2010.

The Ministry of Water Resource and Meteorology (MOWRAM) implemented a number of actions to make Cambodia resilient to climate change, including:

- Management and development of water resources, including the development of irrigation system;
- Management of flood, salted water and drought;
- Protection and conservation of water resource; and
- Management of information on water resource and meteorology.

### **Challenges**

There are some challenges on CSDG 13 implementation:

- Limited data source to measure the achievement and progress in each indicator,
- Limitation of capacity and resources including human resources and technical support to implement the proposed indicators and activities in CSDGs.
- Lack of women's participation at all levels in environment and climate change actions
- Lack of the mechanism to coordinate the local administration to implement CSDG at sub national level.



**Good lessons learned include:**

- Strengthening the role and responsible of the SDGs working group to ensure each indicator is implement and well tracked
- Transfer resources to implement CSDG indicators at sub-national level

**Table 4: Progress of CSDG 13**

Indicator		Unit	CSDG targets				Actual			Progress
			2015	2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018	
13.11	Percentage of Commune/Sangkat Vulnerable to Climate to Climate Change	%	47.0	43.0	-	-	43	-	-	-
13.2.1	Percentage of Greenhouse Gas Emission through reduced activities when comparing to the projection (scenario) of the usual gas emission	%	-	-	3.5	GHGs reduction 81,752.903 Gg CO2 equivalent	-	-	-	-
13.2.2	Percentage of Increased Public Expenditure for Climate Change	%	-	1.2	0.9	-	0.9	1	-	-
13.3.1	Institution level that prepared for response to climate change indicated as percentage of Institutional capacity mainstreamed on 5 components of climate change	%	-	27.0	-	45.0	-	42	48	Ahead
13.3.2	Percentage of households (farming, animal raising, fish raising and fishing) and local community for forestry member participated in workshops and receive training on climate change	%	0.06	0.06	0.12	0.18	-	-	-	-

**Key Policies/Accelerating Strategies**

The government's commitment for mainstreaming the environment and natural resources sustainability into the national development framework is demonstrated through the establishment of the National Council for Sustainable Development (NCSd) on 9 May 2015. The NCSd is an inter-ministerial institution with the Prime Minister as its Honorary Chair, and Minister of Environment as its Chair. It draws its membership from key ministries and institutions as well as all governors of municipality and provinces.

The RGC has recently implemented an in-depth structural reform and is stepping up systematic measures for a clear demarcation of responsibilities and cooperation among relevant ministries and institutions to enable them to effectively achieve their roles and responsibilities in environment protection, biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.

The development and implementation of NESAP 2016-2023 is to complement the existing national strategies, action plans and programs. NESAP 2016-2023 focuses on furtherance of efforts to strengthen collaborations led by NCSd in promoting a cross-sectoral coordination, with emphasis on the cross-cutting themes such as gender and capacity development, application of relevant policy and economic tools, and in

mainstreaming the environmental and natural resources sustainability into the country's development framework. The final draft of the Environment and Natural Resource Code has been final and will be approved soon as the national policy for the environment reform.

The Cambodia Climate Change Strategic Plan (CCCSP) 2014-2023 was adopted by Royal Government of Cambodia in November 2013 and is in line with the commitments made at the Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development, contributing to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in general and Cambodia's SDGs (CSDGs) in particular. More specifically, CCCSP contributes to SDG 12 'Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns' and SDG 13 'Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts'. CCCSP is allowing the integration of climate change into national and sub-national level planning and particularly into the NSDP and into sector development plans of all relevant ministries.

The CCCSP is coherent with national development strategies and plans that precede it, such as Rectangular Strategic Plan phase IV, National Policy and Strategic Plan on Green Growth 2013-2030, NAPA, and has been developed after its approval, such as NSDP 2014-2018 and NSDP 2019-2023, and the National Environment Strategy and Action Plan 2016-2023. To complement the CCCSP, a climate change financing framework and an M&E framework were developed.

In December 2017 MoE Cambodia approved a national climate change M&E framework to track the country's progress in addressing the challenges posed by climate change. The document includes a robust theory of change. On that basis, the document provides a framework to measure the implementation of the CCCSP at the national level, including indicators, baselines and milestones.

The M&E framework uses the Tracking Adaptation and Measuring Development (TAMD) approach, which is a twin-track conceptual framework that can be used to assess whether climate change adaptation leads to effective development and how development interventions can boost communities' capacity to adapt.

MOWRAM will continue to ensure the sustainability of water resource for agriculture, urban and rural supply, hydropower, fishery, transportation and tourism. The ministry will develop Strategy and Action Plan for Water Resource and Meteorology 2019-2023 to implement the NSDP 2019-2023 and RS IV.

***CSDG 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels***

**Progress**

The RGC has been actively promoting the rule of law at both national and international level. At the same time the RGC has strived to ensure justice for all. The progress related to this including key efforts made to improve legal and judicial system. Some necessary legal frameworks were introduced in order to enhance the competent, independence and impartiality of judiciary which are crucial for strengthening the rule of law; major laws, including the Penal Code, Criminal Procedure Code, the Civil Procedure Code, the Juvenile Justice Law (with a 3 year Strategic Operational Plan for its implementation) and other laws and regulations related to political, economic, social and cultural sectors were promulgated to contribute to the realization of human rights and fundamental freedom; and the rotating of judges and prosecutors from an area to another area is deemed as the strategies of the RCG in fighting against corruption within the judicial system.

The Ministry of National Assembly-Senate Relations and Inspection (MONASRI) has been active in disseminating anti-corruption and the amendment of the law to the sub-national levels, universities, vocational training institutes, high schools and the private sector. In addition to disseminating anti-corruption law, the MONASRI has been working to improve the public trust through a more effective public service provision and transparency.

**Table 5: Progress of CSDG 16**

Indicator		Unit	CSDG targets				Actual			Progress
			2015	2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018	
16.3.1	Proportion of People Involved in disseminating laws (in 100,000 persons) (MONASRI)	%	1.5	3.7	3.7	3.8	-	-	-	-
16.7.1	Proportion of female government official in ministries/agencies (MOCS)	%	-	40.0	41.0	42.0	40.0	40.0	41.0	On track
16.9.4	Percentage of birth registered and receive birth certificates (by 2024 at least 90%)	%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

The proportion of female government officials in ministries/agencies has been raised by 1 percent point, increasing from 40 percent in 2016 to 41 percent in 2018. The RGC has also been providing civil registration. The prime minister announced free of charge for the issuance of birth certificates. Free legal assistance to the poor is also provided.

The government has been implementing four reforms, including (1) Public Administration Reform; (2) Decentralization and De-concentration (D&D), (3) Sub-National Democratic Development (SNDD), and (4) Public Financial Management.

The engagement of all relevant stakeholders through the creation of Technical Working Groups (TWGs) have been implemented. The government removed requirement to notify local authorities three days in advance of CSOs' planned activities. Moreover, the government takes actions in areas where sharp gender disparities exist. E.g. women participation in politic, capacity building for women, increasing women's representation in key decision-making positions, etc. The RGC, especially the MOP, is working with stakeholders in partnership on implementing CSDGs. One-Window Service is an effective mechanism initiated by the government in order to simplify its administrative process and timely delivery of public services to be accessible to citizens, businessmen, and small entrepreneur.

### **Challenges**

The RGC acknowledges that some challenges remain. Although it has been active in disseminating laws, law enforcement remains difficult. The government has been working hard to fight corruption, but the elimination of the corruption has been slow, and it would take a long time for Cambodia to be corruption free. Therefore, the implementation of the Anti-corruption law requires more efforts, resources and participation from all stakeholders.

There is a lack of budget for implementing laws that have been disseminated. As a result, the realization and understanding of laws and its procedures of enforcement need to be further promoted to the public. Means of dissemination of laws and regulations from national to sub-nation level need to be made more innovative to be more effective.

The capacity of staff at Sub-National levels remains low, which prevents them from providing good public services as desired.

The drafting of the law of civil registration will take longer time, and the civil registration is done manually.

### **Key Policies/Accelerating Strategies**

- The RGC will ensure that no one in Cambodia is left behind to enjoy their rights and freedoms without discrimination regardless of race, color, sex, language, religious belief, political tendency, birth origin, social status, wealth or other statuses.
- The RGC is working to further improve better access to justice without any discrimination, access to legal education and judicial information, and including the strengthening legal aid services for the poor and vulnerable, especially for children and women.
- The RGC will increase the dissemination of the laws and regulations and enhance access to judicial information, decisions and other related laws and regulations for the public awareness on laws and its enforcement including court decisions and proceedings, periodic administrative reports and administrative information regarding pending cases, status and schedule information.
- The government will continue to fight corruption and completely eliminate it in the future.
- The MoI will continue to implement "Cambodia National Strategic Plan of Identification 2017-2026".

## ***CSDG 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development***

### **Progress**

The RGC has achieved substantial success in strengthening partnership with development partners through continuous improvement and implementation of key policies and mechanisms, especially the preparation and implementation of the Development Cooperation and Partnership Strategy (DCPS) 2014-2018. The government has been able to mobilize resources for national development and considers cooperation financing crucial for social development as well as the development of the country's economy.

In the period of 2015-2018, the volume of ODA accounted around USD 1.4 billion per annum. The ODA grant share leveled off at approximately USD 800 million. The ODA/GDP ratio has fallen from 7.5% in 2015 to 5.7% in 2018. The overall volume of support to either sector or sub-sector as a percentage of GDP seems to reach slightly higher than baseline and planned figures as set out in CSDGs targets within CRDB/CDC's coverage.

Significant progress has been made over ODA alignment to National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP) required resource which desirable figure was USD 6.87 billion equivalent to 91% of NSDP requirement. In line with current progress of socio-economic development, agriculture and infrastructure sector received highest volume of total ODA than the requirement because they are leveraging sectors to boost national economy.

The Development Cooperation and Partnerships Strategy (2014-2018) has been developed and effectively implemented in consistent with Cambodia's evolved development context as an LMIC and provided a comprehensive framework for promoting development partnerships in Cambodia articulating in the RGC's Rectangular Strategy-Phase IV. The strategy is also aligned global initiatives on development effectiveness focusing on effective institutions, inclusive partnerships and development results.

Together, there has been good progress on partnership mechanisms. The bilateral consultation mechanism between RGC and DPs continues to provide opportunity to jointly review development programmes and discuss development issues and opportunity. The new 2015 Technical Working Group (TWG) Guideline and a revised set of Joint Monitoring Indicators (JMIs) 2014-2018 provide frameworks to inform TWGs to promote coherence between national planning and sector priorities and strengthen their performance and mutual accountability for development results.

### ***Technical Working Group on Planning and Poverty Reduction Sub-group Data for Development (TWG-PPR Sub-group D4D)***

The RGC also recognizes that population data is fundamental to inform national policies and programmes. Cambodia has increased the national budget for national surveys and the conduct of the 2019 the General Population Census of Cambodia in line with international recommendations and standards. This will enable the count of



all persons, and to build capacity for the effective use of such data to monitor the progress against the targets and indicators of the CSDGs aiming at improving the delivery of public services for all people. The census activities have been rolling out through the TWG-PPR Sub-group D4D to ensure the quality and release of disaggregated data in a timely manner.

**Table 6: Progress of CSDG 17**

Indicator		Unit	CSDG targets				Actual			Progress
			2015	2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018	
17.3.1	Official Development Assistance as % of GDP (CRDB/CDC)	% of GDP	7.4	7.4	6.9	6.4	6.42	6.48	5.74	On track
17.6.1	Percentage of population connected to Fixed Internet Broadband subscriptions, by speed (MPTC)	%	0.6	0.6	0.7	1.0	0.6	0.8	0.9	On track
17.8.1	Proportion of individuals using the Internet (MPTC)	%	44.1	51.8	54.6	55.2	51.8	68.37	81.62	Ahead
17.9.1	Total financial and technical assistance (including through North-South, South-South and Triangular cooperation) committed to Cambodia (CRDB/CDC)	% of GDP	1.31	1.31	1.23	1.15	1.86	1.88	1.15	On track
17.9.02	Amount of ODA to Economic and Development Policy/Planning (as % of GDP) committed to Cambodia (CRDB/CDC)	% of GDP	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.04	0.05	0.04	Ahead
17.10.1	The number of commercial legal norms and standard set up to facilitate local investors and investors in trading (MOC)	Number	7.00	7.00	7.00	8.00	7.0	7.0	7.0	On track
17.17.1	Amount of ODA disbursed to civil society partnership as % of GDP (CRDB/CDC)	% of GDP	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.03	0.03	0.02	Ahead
17.18.1	Proportion of sustainable development indicators produced at the national level with full disaggregation when relevant to the target, in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (MOP)		-	-	-	94.00	-	-	-	-
17.18.2	Proportion of budget expenditure for implementation they National Strategy for Development of Statistics (NSDS) (MOP)	%	0.20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
17.19.1	Population Census in every 10 years (MOP)	Number of time	1.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-



## **Challenges**

Achieving national development objectives and the CSDGs requires the mobilization of a significantly increased level of resourcing and will require more complex and comprehensive financial management structures for both private and public sources.

As a newly classified lower-middle income country (LMIC), Cambodia is seeking to consolidate and maintain its impressive track record of socio-economic progress. But realizing Cambodia's aspirations to become an upper-middle income country by 2030, together with the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, demands a vision that is more holistic and more ambitious. Reclassification can mean a review of programmes, including a shift from grants to concessional loans or increased counterpart funding.

Towards a LDC graduation, the RGC will need to develop coherent policies related to economic competitiveness, trade and development cooperation to prepare Cambodia for a smooth transition, as well as to ensure that ODA availability are more predictable. Therefore, Cambodia's strong record of economic growth, poverty reduction and Rectangular Strategy implementation means that the country has now surpassed the Human Assets Index threshold for LDC graduation but there is a need of stronger effort and further actions to approach the Economic Vulnerability Index lower bound. Graduating from LDC status would ineligibly Cambodia to access a wide range of International Special Measures under various UN supported initiatives, mainly in the areas of trade, development, and technical assistances. Likewise, development partners are likely to review their support, increase their requirements for cost-sharing or counterpart funding or transition to loan financing. Thus, new development partnerships and resources must be mobilised to support this priority in the face of reduced levels of ODA and other international special measures.

## **Key Policies/Accelerating Strategies**

CRDB/CDC is mandated as the RGC's lead coordination and resource mobilization agency for the development cooperation, with responsibility for overall policy leadership on the mobilization and management of ODA.

The CSDG Framework complements the national development framework and provides a mechanism for effective partnering. To succeed in supporting the implementation of CSDGs, the Development Cooperation and Partnerships Strategy (DCPS 2019-2023) has been developed at a time when Cambodia's own development priorities and context are evolving. On this basis, the process of formulating the Strategy has been evidence-based, learning from the experience and perspectives of different development actors across a wide range of sectors and themes in order to build a consensus on future priorities. In this regard, the RGC recognizes that ODA remains particularly important for its national socio-economic development agenda, and serves as a catalyst in leveraging other sources of development finance, both private and public, to further promote inclusive growth and sustainable economic development of Cambodia.

The RGC is fully committed to continue working in partnership to secure successful implementation of its policy agendas including CSDGs, NSDP, sector plans, and major governance reforms. RGC's DCPS makes an important contribution to development

partnerships efforts by establishing principles, setting objectives and identifying tools to promote effective cooperation.

Key Priorities to Strengthen Development Cooperation and Partnerships in the Sixth Legislature of the National Assembly:

- Continue strengthening inclusive partnerships with all development actors to mobilize financial resources for CSDGs implementation in respectful attached with Ownership and Leadership Principle of the Royal Government.
- Continue actively participating in both regional and global affairs to enable opportunity for development, especially to promote the representation of peace, security, and investment opportunity in Cambodia.
- Continue implementing all commitments that Cambodia has committed in high level forum on development effectiveness, along with strengthening the use of existing mechanisms for discussion on development cooperation issues.
- Continue strengthening partnerships with NGOs by committing to the Law on Association and Non-Governmental Organization in order to promote effective, transparency, and accountability of development cooperation.

## **4.2 Summary Review of Remaining CSDGs**

This section reviews the remaining 12 CSDGs in summary form, we also report the baseline and progress to date using a truncated dataset. The full dataset can be obtained within the CSDG Framework 2016-2030.

### ***CSDG 1: End Poverty in all its forms everywhere***

#### **Progress**

Cambodia has made tremendous progress over the last decade. Poverty was reduced dramatically in Cambodia from 53.2% in 2004 to 13.5% in 2014, making it one of the most impressive poverty reductions observed anywhere in the world. On average, poverty reduction has been more than 1.5 percentage points per year. About 80% of Cambodians live in rural areas; it is therefore not surprising that rural poverty has evolved at the same pace as the national trend. Poverty is overwhelmingly concentrated in rural areas, and the gap appears to be growing.

Poor households are larger than the national average (5.6 and 4.5 members, respectively), and consumption is lower in households whose working-age adults have fewer years of education. Among poor households, the average years of education has changed very little over time (from 3.1 years in 2004 to 3.3 years in 2011), compared to education in average households (from 3.9 years in 2004 to 5.1 years in 2011). The probability of being poor is higher among ethnic minorities (World Bank 2013).

#### **Challenges**

While such a level of poverty reduction was a positive improvement, it is worth noting that many people are still vulnerable and even small and unexpected or undesirable shocks would easily cause them to fall back into poverty. Vulnerability of falling back into poverty is substantially high in Cambodia. Future poverty reduction will also depend on Cambodia's ability to address the issue of vulnerability to poverty. Many of those who escaped extreme poverty have only just cleared the poverty line, and the poverty rate is very sensitive to small changes in the line. In this context, it is important to consider that increased consumption financed by borrowing may be masquerading as poverty reduction, and that poverty and vulnerability may be more significant than previously thought.

#### **Key Policies/Accelerating Strategies**

In the past, efforts have been made to enact and implement various social policies, specifically to ensure that poor and vulnerable people receive support through the establishment of orphanages, facilities for people with disabilities, maternal and newborn care centers, health services, subsidy to poor people who need treatment or child delivery service, free primary and secondary education, etc. In addition, the Royal Government established the National Social Security Fund for Civil Servants (NSSFC), the National Social Security Fund (NSSF), the National Fund for Veterans (NFV) and the People with Disabilities Fund (PWDF), to guarantee a stable income for citizens through pensions, healthcare, employment injury allowance, disability allowances and other allowances. These activities are consistent with the poverty reduction policies and the Royal Government's socioeconomic development policies already established in

other key policies, in particular the Rectangular Strategies and the National Strategic Development Plan.

**Table 7: Progress of CSDG 1**

Indicators		Unit	CSDG Targets				Actual			Progress
			2015	2016	2017	2018	2015	2016	2017	
1.2.1	Proportion of Cambodian population living below national poverty line, by sex and age	%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1.2.1.1	Proportion of population living below the national poverty line	%	13.05 (2014)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1.2.1.2	Phnom Penh areas living under national poverty line	%	12.9 (2014)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1.2.1.3	Urban area living under national poverty line	%	12.9 (2014)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1.2.1.4	Rural area living under poverty line	%	12.5 (2014)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1.2.1.5	Proportion of Cambodian children living below national poverty line	%	22.2.0 (est.)	-	21	-	-	-	-	-
1.2.2	Proportion of men, women, and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions	%	50.7 (2014)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1.3.1.1	Proportion of the poor and the vulnerable received social emergency relief service	%	-	-	3.97	3.67	-	-	-	-
1.4.1	Percentage of total members of registered community fisheries and forestry resources management through effective community registration and development	%	-	40	43	45	-	-	-	-

“National Social Protection Policy Framework 2016-2025” (SPPF) focusing on two main pillars, namely, Social Assistance and Social Security. The goal of this policy framework is to develop a strategic plan for the Royal Government of Cambodia to ensure income security and reduce economic and financial vulnerability of its citizens. In addition to this framework, the National Population Policy 2016-2030 also reflects its efforts to continuously improve the people’s well-being and solidarity in the society and aims at reducing poverty to a maximum extent. The policy framework aligns, concentrates and improves the existing social protection programs/schemes and enhances the efficiency, equity, transparency and consistency of the social protection system as a whole. Depending on the country’s level of economic growth, the current coverage, which is still considerably low, is expanded in order to respond to the needs of the citizens in all segments. A framework on governance and cross-cutting issues will also be developed to ensure the efficiency of the system and its budgetary implications.

## ***CSDG 2: End Hunger, Achieve Food Security and Improved Nutrition and Promote Sustainable Agriculture***

### **Progress**

In the absence of more recent evidence, the reporting is based on the CDHS results showing that in 2014, 32% of Cambodian children under 5 were stunted. Although this represents a significant improvement since 2010, when over 40% were stunted, it is still considered very high based on WHO/UNICEF prevalence thresholds. Children in rural areas are more likely to be stunted than children in urban areas.

Prevalence of undernourishment is recorded as a three-year rolling average which fell from 18.7% in 2014-2016, to 18.5% for 2015-2017. The number of people undernourished held steady at 2.9 million over the same period. The total number of people experiencing severe food insecurity is recorded as 2.3 million in 2015-2017, down from 2.6 million in 2014-2016, equivalent to a drop from 17.1% down to 14.4% for the same periods. According to FAO, average dietary energy supply adequacy expressed as a percentage has exceeded 105% since 2007-2009, reflecting ongoing increases in the production of cereals to the point of a substantial excess in rice production above national needs.

### **Challenges**

Major challenges faced include: (1) the need to make more effective the information system to help push for better planning, coordinating, and decision making; (2) the quickly changing contexts of Cambodia's development status such as population growth, socio-economic conditions, urbanization, migration, climate change; (3) inadequate ability to supply clean water to help improve hygienic practices among rural dwellers; (4) diet quality of pregnant women and children under 5 remains inadequate; (5) good nutritional practices for infants under 2 remains a challenge due to social trends and beliefs and the wide availability of infant formula; (5) implementation of regulations to deter the use of formula to replace breast milk still lacking and the push for the fortification of micronutrients into foods still remains a challenge; (6) public budget for this sector is needed if it is to be sustainable but private investments are still lacking; (7) increase in incidences of obesity especially among women of child-bearing age; (8) the needs to make more effective diversified agricultural productions, to protect natural resources crucial for agriculture, forestry and fishery.

### **Key Policies/Accelerating Strategies**

The National Fast Track Road Map for Improving Nutrition (2014–2020) was launched by the Ministry of Health to provide particular long-term direction to solve maternal, infant and young child malnutrition issue, particularly to reduce their illness and mortality rate. The National Action Plan for Zero Hunger Challenge in Cambodia 2016-2025 was also officially launched in May 2016 to provide a comprehensive road map to achieve Goal 2 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to End Hunger, Achieve Food Security, and Improve Nutrition, and Promote Sustainable Agriculture.

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries developed the Agriculture Sector Strategic Development Plan 2014-2018 to accelerate agriculture development, including enhanced agricultural productivity, diversification and commercialization,



promotion of livestock farming and aquaculture, land reform and sustainable management of natural resources.

The RGC launched the National Food Security and Nutrition Strategy (NFSNS) 2014-2018 which aimed to improve physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences and optimize the utilization of this food to keep a healthy and productive life.

**Table 8: Progress of CSDG 2**

Indicator		Unit	CSDG targets							Progress
			2015	2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018	
2.2.2	Prevalence of stunting (height for age <-2 standard deviation from the median of the World Health Organization (WHO) Child Growth standards) among children under 5 years of age (MOH/MOP)	%	32.4	-	-	25	-	-	-	-
2.2.2	Prevalence of malnutrition (weight for height >+2 or <-2 standard deviation from the median of WHO Child Growth Standards among children under 5 years of age, by type (wasting and overweight)	%	-	-	8	8	-	-	-	-
2.3.1	Value of agricultural production per unit of labor engaged in agriculture (farming, animal husbandry, and fisheries) (MAFF)	\$/farmer	-	1,555	1,656	1,764	-	-	-	-
2.4.1	Agricultural Land Productivity (MAFF)	\$/ha	-	1,548	1,608	1,671	-	-	-	-
2.5.1	Number of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture secured in policy, strategy and either medium or long-term conservation facilities (MAFF;MOE)	Number of species	-	95	96	98	-	-	-	-
2.5.2	Percentage of households in community in protected area improving their livelihood through receiving the benefits from NTFPs, integrated agriculture, eco-tourism within the protected areas (MOE)	%	10%	20%	25%	30%	15%	25%	30%	On track
2.a.1	Total official flows (official development assistance + other official flows) to agriculture sector (as % of GDP) (CRDB/CDC)	% of GDP	-	0.71	0/66	0.62	0.73	0.86	1.02	Ahead



### ***CSDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all ages***

#### **Progress**

Health status of the people have improved through expansion and increased coverage of medical facilities and measures to help curb potential budget deficits in the sector. Developments within the health sector as well as sectors with direct effects on health such as infrastructure, economic growth and poverty reduction all play major roles in improving the life expectancy and living conditions of the people. Average life expectation increased from 61.9 years in 2000 to 68.7 in 2005 (with gender average for men at 66.7 years and women 70.7 years).

Achievements have been made towards reducing infant and maternal mortality, new HIV infection and AIDS related deaths, caused by other communicable and non-communicable diseases and risk factors affecting the health of the people. Data shows that maternal mortality decreased from 472 per 100,000 live births in 2005 to 170 in 2014. Likewise, infant mortality decreased from 66 per 1,000 live birth in 2005 to 28 in 2014. Major expansion has been made in the number of available health centers and medical staff. The number of health centers increased from 1,105 centers in 2014 to 1,207 in 2018 and hospitals from 97 to 123. There is also better availability of private clinics and pharmacies.

New HIV infections in Cambodia have steadily declined from 2015 and Cambodia has already achieved its target 90-90-90 before 2020. This has been recognized by the United Nation among the others seven countries.

#### **Challenges**

Despite progresses and improvements, the health sector still faces a number of challenges in terms of both epidemiology and the health system that require both short- and medium-term solutions.

*Epidemiology:* Infant and maternal mortality and under 5 mortality and prevalence of malnutrition is still high if compared to other countries in the region. Lack of knowledge of sexual and reproductive health of adolescents and youth and increased adolescent pregnancies were emerging issues. HIV prevalence remain high among key population at risk to HIV infection such as entertainment workers, gay men and other men who have sex with men, transgender women and people who inject drugs, deaths from tuberculosis remains high, and high incidences of drug resistance especially for the treatments of TB and malaria remains a clinical challenge. Non-communicable diseases and growth in aging population will need to be accommodated with improved infrastructure and health service. Alcohol and drug use, insecurity, urbanization, environmental deterioration, and climate change all pose threats on the health of the population but require multi and inter-sectoral responses.

*Health Systems:* Major challenges faced include: (1) Health services quality remain inadequate due to inadequate resources, specifically, human resources, in term of the number of staff and specialists, and diagnostics and treatment ability, (2) Inadequate capacity of public health system to deal with diseases and health problems related to CDs, NCDs, mental health, and provide public health emergency response to emerging/re-emerging infectious diseases pandemics, disaster preparedness and

response, (3) Investments on health infrastructure including technology and information system remains limited, (4) inappropriate health care seeking of the population, especially in rural/remote areas i.e. delay in seeking care, self-medications, and (5) The mushrooming of private clinics also poses managerial issues for the Ministry of Health.

Another challenge is related to a decline of funding to eliminate HIV/AIDS in Cambodia, where the preventative programs have focused on the key population groups. The external funds support has been decreased and this is a big concern for Cambodia to reach its 95-95-95 target in 2030.

**Table 9: Progress of CSDG 3**

Indicator		Unit	CSDG targets				Actual			Progress
			2015	2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018	
3.1.1	Life expectancy at Birth (MoH;MOP)									
	Male	Year	68	68	68	68	-	-	-	-
	Female	Year	71	72	72	72	-	-	-	-
3.1.2	Total Fertility Rate (expressed per women) (MOH;MOP)	No. of children per woman	2.7	3	2	2	-	-	-	-
3.2.1	Maternal mortality ratio (MOH;MOP)	in 100,000 live birth	170	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3.2.2	Proportion of births delivery by skilled health personnel (MOH;HIS;MOP)	%	89.0	89.0	89.0	89.0	85.0	89.0	87.3	Below
3.3.1	Under-five mortality rate (MOH;MOP)	In 1000 live birth	35.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3.3.2	National mortality rate (MOH;MOP)	In 1,000 live birth	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3.4.1	% of new HIV infection per 1000 uninfected population	Among 1,000 population	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.04	0.03	0.03	Ahead
3.4.2	Tuberculosis (New infections' cases) incidence (MOH;CENAT)	In 100,000 population	380	365	350	336	345	326	-	-
3.4.3	Malaria incidence (New infection's cases)	In 1,000 population	2.0	1.85	1.65	1.45	1.5	2.96	4.0	Below
3.5.1	Mortality rate attributed to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, or chronic respiratory disease among people aged 30-70 (MOH; Estimated by WHO)	%	36	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3.5.2	Percentage of adult population with depression received treatment (MOH)	%	2	4	6	10	2.0	2.0	1.7	Below
3.6.1	Percentage of people with drug used received treatment (MOH)	%	22	40	50	60	28	30.1	100	Ahead
3.6.2	Prevalence of alcohol use among adult age from 18+ (MOH)		53.5 (2010)	45.5	45.5	45.5	-	-	-	-
3.7.1	Dead rate due to traffic accident (MOI) (100,000 population)	In 100,000 population	14.70	14.2	13.72	13.23	-	-	-	-
3.8.1	Proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15-49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern method (MOH)	%	57	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

3.8.2	Teenage pregnancy 15-19 years	%	11.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3.9.1	% of the population covered by social health protection system (Health Equity Funds and Social Health Insurance Scheme) (MOH)	%	23.0	-	-	-	23.98	30	35.7	-
3.9.2	Government Current Expenditure on Health as % of GDP	% of GDP	1.24	1.50	1.75	2.00	1.29	1.30	1.43	Below
3.a.1	Age-standardized prevalence tobacco use among persons aged 15 years and older		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Male	%	40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Female	%	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3.a.2	Age-standardized prevalence tobacco use among persons aged 13-15 (MOH)	%	6.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3.c.1	Ratio of physician/nurse/midwife per 1000 population	In 1000 population	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.8	-	-	-	-

### **Key Policies/Accelerating Strategies**

The Health Strategic Plan 2016-2020 (HSP3) is MoH's strategic management tool to guide the MoH and all health institutions as well as concerned stakeholders to effectively and efficiently use their available resources to translate health strategies into action. The HSP3 renews a long-term vision of the health sector development and re-affirms the MoH's commitment to meeting the stated vision. It outlines the strategic framework for further strengthening operations in the entire health sector (both public and private) to address priorities and to ensure consistent application of strategies across programs. The HSP3 also contains the framework for monitoring and evaluating progress and results of its implementation. The plan also aims to mobilize adequate financial resources, inform fiscal allocation, and guide development assistance in the health sector.

The National Strategic Plan for a Comprehensive and Multi-sectorial response to HIV/AIDS (2019-2023) is under developed and the sustainability road map, the seven points policy of the Royal Government of Cambodia on HIV/AIDS are implemented.

## ***CSDG 5: Achieve Gender Equality and Empower all Women and Girls***

### **Progress**

#### **Framework and mechanism for advancement of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment**

Gender has been mainstreamed into the National Strategic Development Plan 2014-2018 with clear targets and indicators. GMAGs have been established in line ministries and institutions and are responsible for developing GMAPs, which provide a mechanism for institutionalizing gender mainstreaming into sectoral policies and programmes. By 2018, 29 out of 31 line ministries and institutions had developed GMAPs, 24 of which have been updated and six are under review.

The National Program for Public Administrative Reform 2015-2018 incorporates mainstreaming gender issues in the civil service, which includes mandatory training and improvements in the training curriculum for new recruits, current civil servants, and senior management. The Gender Mainstreaming Action Plan (GMAP) for the Civil Service Phase III 2014-2018 of the Ministry of Civil Service (MCS) includes six strategies to promote gender equality in the civil service.

There is strong effort of the government to promote gender equality in the Sub-National Democratic Development program (2010-2019). The national program and its implementation plans call for promoting gender equality and women's empowerment in sub-national administrations (SNA) through equal participation and access for women and men to leadership and decision-making positions. Currently, the national committee is in the process to monitor the implementation of the Strategy to promote women in management at sub-national levels and social equity and inclusiveness mandatory training for SNA.

MOWA continues to promote Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) as a tool for gender mainstreaming across sectors and engage with the Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF). In 2016, 28 government ministries and institutions received funds from the national budget and development partners for implementing GMAPs, an increase from 16 ministries and institutions in 2013.

The Budget Strategic Plan 2016-2020 is an important tool of the Public Financial Management Program Phase III and serves to link the budget process to the policy framework. The national budget allocated for gender activities increased from 2015-2018 by 72 percent from 4,301 million Riel to 7,389 million Riel. In 2018, the national budget allocation for gender mainstreaming in the four sectors is as follows: social sector (43 percent), national defense, security and public order (22 percent), general administrative sector (20 percent) and the economic sector (15 percent).

The budget for the Secretariat of Anti-Human Trafficking (NCCT) increased by 655 percent to 3,815 million riels in 2016.

*Women in Leadership:* There are currently 20 percent, or one in five, women in the National Assembly as of 2018, showing a slight decrease over the past decade, and 19 percent women in the Senate, an increase over the previously stagnant 15 percent over the past decade.

At the highest level of government, proportion of women Minister, Secretary and Under-Secretary of State increased to 14.55% (indicator 5.5.2) from 7.4% in 1998 below target (3 Ministers 45 Secretaries of State, and 69 Under secretaries of State were women).

The number of women in civil service has increased through incentives and appointments. Across government women represent 41% of civil servants in 2017 showing a steady increase of approximately 1 percentage point a year. There is a higher proportion of women at Sub-National Level (SNL) (43% in 2017, up from 40% in 2014) than national level (31 percent in 2017, up from 27 percent in 2014).

Proportion of women in Commune/ Sangkat council increased to 16.75% (indicator 5.5.3 from 15% in 2007).

**Violence Against Women:** The Minimum Standards for Essential Services for Women and Girl Survivors of GBV was drafted in 2017 under NAPVAW II, and covers 10 standards including Mediation as part of Legal Protection Services. Mediation Guidelines were developed and the “Book for Judicial Professionals and Mediations Guidelines for Responding to Violence Against Women” has been reviewed to strengthen the legal responses to VAW.

Under NAPVAW II, multi-sectoral Coordinated Response Mechanism (CRM) networks, involving relevant government departments and officials (health, police, justice, social affairs, and local authorities), were established in eight provinces in 2016 and 2017 to facilitate effective, efficient and timely responses for GBV survivors. In 2016, the Referral Guidelines for Women and Girl Survivors of GBV and the Implementation Mechanisms was completed, and training on the guidelines was conducted in seven provinces. More training courses are planned for 2017 and 2018.

**Table 10: Progress of CSDG 5**

Indicator		Unit	CSDG targets				Actual			Progress
			2015	2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018	
5.1.1	Number of laws, policies, national plan and legal frameworks in place to promote, enforce and monitor gender equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex-including a specific law to address discrimination against women in priorities and in emerging issues.	Number	50	50	-	55	50	52	55	On track
5.2.1	Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age	%	30.8 (CDHS 2014)	-	-	30.0	-	-	-	-
5.2.2	Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months and by age.	%	0.1 (CDHS 2014)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-



5.3.1	Proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married or in a union before age 18 old.	%	1.9 (CDHS 2014)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5.4.1	Number of legal and policy measures to address and recognize work-life balance, and unpaid care and domestic works, and promote women's increased access to decent employment	Number	-	5	-	7	-	-	8	Ahead
5.5.1	Proportion of seats held by women in legislation institutions	%	17.8	17.8	-	25.0	17.8	-	19.67	Below
5.5.2	Proportion of women Minister, Secretary and Under-Secretary of State	%	-	16.27	-	21.0	16.27 (2016)	-	14.55	Below
5.5.3	Proportion of women in Commune/ Sangkat council	%	-	-	16.75	-	-	16.75	-	On track
5.6.1	The proportion of women aged 15 to 49 who own decision relating to the use of contraception and reproductive health care.	%	-	75.6	-	77.0	-	-	-	-
5.6.2	The number of laws, policies, plans and legal regulations that ensure that all women have access to information, education and sexual and reproductive health services.	Number	-	10.0	-	12.0	12	12	13	Ahead
5.c.1	Number of institutions with a system to track and allocate budget to promote gender equality and empowerment women.	Number	0	-	-	3	0	2	2	Below
5.c.2	Number of line Ministries, Agencies have development and Implement Gender Mainstreaming Strategic Plan	Number	-	6.0	7.0	6.0	27	28	29	Ahead

### **Challenges**

Some challenges in terms of gender remain and most require inter-sectoral responses. First of all, it is difficult to collect data based on CSDG indicators. Secondly, increase in the number of women in leadership positions is one of Cambodia's great achievements but the number is still low.



The general attitude of rural parents towards education of daughters remains an issue for STEM fields, thus resulting in low participation of girls in STEM fields. Additionally, positive parenting practices are still not widely understood.

**Key Policies/Accelerating Strategies**

The Ministry of Women's Affairs, with partnerships and support from ministries, institutions and partners, has contributed to fostering gender equality in key strategic policies and reform programs such as:

- Population Policy and Strategic plan
- National Development Strategy Plan
- National Social Protection Framework
- Sector Strategic Plan, 5-Year Strategic Plan to Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women (Neary Ratanak Strategic Plan), National Action Plan on Prevention of Violence Against Women,
- Public Administration Reform, Public Financial Reform, Legal and Judicial Reform, Decentralization and Deconcentration.
- Beside that Strategic Plan on Gender, Climate Change, Green Growth, and Disaster Risk Management has been integrated into the Cambodia Climate Change Strategic Plan 2013-2022 along with its implementation budget were established.
- National Strategy to Promote Women in Management Position at Sub-National Level (2017-2019).

## ***CSDG 6: Ensure Availability and Sustainable Management of Water and Sanitation for all***

### **Progress**

Water and sanitation play a crucial role in the betterment of public health and the well-being of the people. There are some good progresses with regards to improving access for rural population to basic drinking water source and services and their access to basic sanitation. Nevertheless, more effort needs to be done to meet CSDG targets. It is observable that many key policies and strategies have been put forward to accelerate this CSDG goals and targets.

Surface water quality is generally good thanks to the effort made by Mekong River Commission Environmental Programme and the Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology (MOWRAM) to monitor surface water quality in Cambodia. Institutional arrangements are in place and being improved. MOWRAM undertakes the water quality management responsibilities while The Ministry of Environment (MoE) has a range of responsibilities that embrace water quality protections and undertakes some monitoring of the water pollution. The MRD and the MIH also have responsibilities for managing the disposal of wastewater in rural and urban water resources.

**Table 11: Progress of CSDG 6**

Indicator		Unit	CSDG targets				Actual			Progress
			2015	2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018	
6.1.1.2	Proportion of rural population using safely managed water supply services	%	16.0	16.0	18.0	21.0	16.0	16.0	-	Below
6.1.1.3	Proportion of rural population using basic drinking water source water services	%	57.0	62.0	67.0	72.0	53.9	58.7	-	Below
6.2.1	Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services, including a hand-washing facility with soap and water	%	27.0	28.0	29.0	30.0	-	-	-	-
6.2.1.1	Proportion of rural population using improved/basic sanitation	%	-	56.0	60.0	62.0	64.4	71.2	-	Ahead
6.2.1.2	Proportion of rural households with hand-washing facility with soap and water	%	76.0	78.0	80.0	82.0	-	-	-	-
6.a.1	Amount of water-and-sanitation-related official development assistance that is part of a government-coordinated spending plan compared to GDP	%	0.14	0.14	0.13	0.12	0.19	0.36	0.40	Ahead

### **Challenges**

Based on per capita water availability, Cambodia is not a water stressed country but the challenges are the rich water resources are not evenly distributed both in time (wet and dry seasons) and location, and Cambodia lack of water storages and delivery system and capacity. Government efforts are still undermined by climate change affecting underground water and ability to supply clean water to rural, limited development budget, and participation of women in development. The next key issue is the limited sources of financing given huge demand of infrastructure in the rural area.

**Key Policies/Accelerating Strategies**

The National Strategic Plan on Water and Rural Sanitation 2011-2025 helps guide actions and implementation plans to expand connections and supply of clean water, wells and ponds, distribution of filtration tanks and installation of storage tanks. The target is that by the year 2025 all rural communities will have access to clean water and sanitation and to live in a clean and hygienic environment, eliminating open defecation which is expected to have significant effects on women and children. To achieve this, the Ministry of Rural Development has prepared the first National Action Plan for Rural Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene 2014-2018, the second National Action Plan for Rural Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene 2019-2023, along with the Ministry's Rural Development Strategic Plan 2019-2023 with efforts and contributions of all stakeholders especially development partners at all levels.

## ***CSDG 7: Ensure Access to Affordable, Reliable, Sustainable and Modern Energy for all***

### **Progress**

Efforts in the development of foundations of electrical supply are to guarantee energy security, provide and supply electricity with reliability, sustainability and quality and at reasonable cost. Priority is given to development of power generation capacity and national network of distribution of high voltage electricity to all cities and provinces, with regional sub-stations. Currently, there a high voltage network of 2,141 kilometers and 31 sub-stations that directly covers 20 municipalities and provinces and indirectly covers 5 provinces. Cambodia is now able to produce power locally a total of 2,174 MW from hydropower dams (1,329 MW), biomass, renewable, fuel oil and solar (340 MW), and coal power plants (505 MW) plus import of 442 MW from Vietnam, Thailand and Laos.

**Table 12: Progress of CSDG 7**

Indicator		Unit	CSDG targets				Actual			Progress
			2015	2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018	
7.1.1	Proportion of population with access to electricity	Million Person	7.74	9.21	9.49	9.77	8.92	1067	11.38	Ahead
7.1.2	Proportion of population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology	Million Person	6.16	6.07	6.07	6.08	5.59	5.22	7.65	Ahead
7.2.1	Proportion of Renewable energy in the total final energy consumption	Mtoe	2375.5	2498.6	2621.3	2750.1	4305.03	5650.98	4281.42	Ahead
7.3.1	Proportion of primary energy with GDP	% of GDP	0.39	0.38	0.37	0.37	0,33	0,35	0.37	On track

In 2018, 351 licenses were approved to supply electricity to 14,072 villages (99.32% of all villages in Cambodia). Infrastructure development progress include 31,356 kilometers of medium voltage network, 16,233 transformers, 32,118 kilometers of low voltage network throughout Cambodia. Current infrastructure is able to supply electricity to 12,305 villages, which is about 86.85% of all villages in Cambodia. RGC has mobilized USD22 million through rural electrification fund to support power to the poor programme. So far, achievements include electricity connections and supply to 4,399 poor households, 42,040 SHS installations, and expansion and improvements of supply networks of 6,296 kilometers.

In general, Cambodia supports clean energy development. However, since Cambodia does not have resources to provide subsidy for clean energy, the development becomes a challenge and less competitive with big hydropower and coal power plants. In the last two years, due to reduction cost of investment on clean energy like solar, Cambodia has approved the solar farm investment with the total capacity of approximately 310 MW already. Cambodia is considering to have another 60 MW power plant from wind as well.

## **Challenges**

National energy policies of the Cambodia indicate a willingness to align with the targets of Goal 7 and related CSDGs. However, significant financial resources are still needed to be invested in infrastructures like national grid and substations and power management technology to effectively ensure access to energy, energy efficiency and quality of supply, especially for rural areas. Despite speedy progress of power development in Cambodia, there are a number of challenges for the Cambodia to achieve the sustainable development goal targets. However, significant financial resources are still needed to be invested in infrastructures like national grid and substations and power management technology to effectively ensure access to energy and quality of supply, especially for rural areas.

## **Key Policies/Accelerating Strategies**

The Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME) will update the Master Plan for the development of the electricity sector and continue to develop capacity for transmission, transmission and distribution to ensure that Cambodia has sufficient electricity to meet the growing needs of supply of electricity from the national network covering the entire country. MME will also promote the power supply to locations requiring electricity, especially for non-electric homes. Other priorities of MME include (1) to improve the supply of electricity in order to ensure sufficient supply and quality, safety and reliability, affordable and fair price measurements and quantities; (2) to prepare and implement a plan to lower electricity tariffs and study the possibility of lowering electricity costs; and (3) to encourage private investors to invest with Electricité du Cambodge to ensure that there is sufficient investment in electricity business.

There are two strategic targets that drive the energy development in Cambodia including by 2020, all villages to be connected to some sorts of electricity supply; and by 2030, at least 90% of all households accessed to grid quality electricity. Official development assistance for Cambodia will continue to be necessary as the government has many urgent priorities that need attention with limited resources. Private sector financing will be key sources for renewable energy development and energy efficiency. Governments can encourage investment by developing enabling environment (legal framework) for clean energy. Additional work to meet Target 7 will also be necessary including regional cooperation in term of power sharing through regional grid. This will allow more input from solar or wind energy which need to have a baseload covered. Energy is one of the priority sectors in the IDP, i.e. “industries serving regional production lines and those of future strategic importance such as in information technology and telecommunication (ICT), energy, heavy industries, cultural/historical/traditional handicraft, and green technology.” Resource efficiency and further use of renewable energy would be a promising direction that needs informed policy decisions, incentives, investment and pilot applications.

## ***CSDG 9: Build Resilient Infrastructure, Promote Inclusive and Sustainable Industrialization and Foster Innovation***

### **Progress**

The GDP share of the industrial sector increased from 27.7% in 2015 and 32.8% in 2018. However, the manufacturing sector has increased from 16.0% of GDP in 2015 to only 16.8% in 2018, signifying the slower progress of the core industrial base. Construction has been the most dynamic sector, growing by about 9.8% in 2015, and by an estimated 13.7% in 2018. With international trade reaching 124% of GDP in 2018 (from 120% in 2015), and the boom in real estate sector in the past four years, volumes of goods going through ports in Cambodia increased notably (data to be provided).

International development assistance has continued to target infrastructure, essentially roads, rail, bridges, power transmission lines and irrigation systems. This has enabled garment factories to be shifted from the capital to rural areas, making it closer to labour source and relieving some burden on urban infrastructure.

Population with internet access increased remarkably in the past few years, especially in rural areas as the internet infrastructure has been expanded quite rapidly. In most of the rural areas, people can use 3G and 4G services on their smartphones. On access to the internet, the RGC has promoted the connectivity of backbone fiber optic cables, which have increased to 43,410 km in 2018 along with two undersea optic cable networks. The use of information and communications technology (ICT) has risen substantially as reflected in the rise in mobile phone users from 2.7 million in 2012 to 11 million in 2018 according to RSIV.

The strategic goal of RGC is to promote urban development with good and clean living environment along with enhanced well-being of the people and the socio-economic efficiency. As a result, RGC has adopted and put into implementation the National Policy on Land Management; has set vision for strategic direction of the development of Phnom Penh; has introduced the land use planning for Phnom Penh for 2035; has developed urban planning and is developing Tbong Khmum; has adopted land use plan for Sihanoukville and Battambang; Urban land using planning Takhmao town, Siem Reap town, Kampot town.

### **Challenges**

Despite a lot of progress, Cambodia is still faced with high logistic costs; relatively weak institutional coordination in the development and maintenance of infrastructure; insufficient infrastructure facilities to respond to new development demands; limited attention to the needs of enterprises or factory locations in the formulation of the master plan for urban planning and land management.

Industrial development in Cambodia is fundamentally linked with energy development, skill development, and technologies (including digital technologies). While investment in transmission lines has been pervasive in rural areas in the past five years, generation of electricity in 2018 is inadequate to meet consumption even by households.

The cost of doing business remains high due to inadequate transportation links, causing high logistics costs, elevated energy costs, and relatively time consuming government procedures, though these are expected to improve remarkably by the recent reform



measures mentioned below. To address this issue, both the Law on Investment and the Law on Special Economic Zones are under revision or formulation, in order to improve the business environment for domestic and foreign direct investment and supporting diversification, in line with the Industrial Development Policy.

**Table 13: Progress of CSDG 9**

Indicator		Unit	CSDG targets				Actual			Progress
			2015	2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018	
9.1.1	Freight volumes of ports and railway									
	Sihanoukville Autonomous Port	1000 Ton	-	4 090	4 294	4 509	-	-	-	-
	Phnom Penh Autonomous Port	1000 Ton	-	2 490	2 600	2 750	-	-	-	-
9.1.2	Numbers of air passengers (Domestic and international) (SSCA)	Person	6,042,484	6,624,816	7,310,078	8,069,224	6,624,866	8,237,404	10,553,493	Ahead
	Domestic passengers (SSCA)	Person	436,167	423,478	432,795	442,316	423,478	571,687	1,215,024	Ahead
	international passengers (SSCA)	Person	5,606,317	6,201,338	6,877,284	7,626,908	6,201,338	7,665,717	9,338,469	Ahead
9.1.3	Freight weight (domestic and international) (SSCA)	Ton	37,150	46,461	53,989	62,749	46,462	63,949	74,655	Ahead
	Domestic Freight weight (SSCA)	Ton	252	153	132	114	153	76	834	Ahead
	International Freight weight (SSCA)	Ton	36,898	46,308	53,856	62,635	46,309	63,873	73,821	Ahead
9.2.1.	Number of Cambodian employees in manufacturing sector as a proportion to total employment within the country.	%	10	10.00	12.00	13.00	21.9	23.83	23.92	Ahead
9.5.1	Research and development expenditure as a proportion of GDP	%	0.12 (2016)	0.12	0.13	0.14	-	-	-	-
9.a.1	Total official international support (official development assistance plus other official flows) to infrastructure	%	-	1.65	1.54	1.44	2.00	1.92	1.76	Ahead
9.c.1	Proportion of population covered by internet (mobile and cable)	%	135	127.45	114.74	115.89	127.45	117.19	118.90	Ahead

### **Key Policies/Accelerating Strategies**

**Recent Reform Measures:** A package of 17 reform measures aimed at improving Cambodia's competitiveness, reducing trade cost and attracting foreign direct investment, was presented by the Prime Minister of Cambodia on 29 March 2019 at the Government Private Sector Forum. The measures range from reducing logistics costs to cutting down electricity cost, improving labour law, increasing financial access to SMEs, and to finalizing the amendment of the law on investment and law on special economic zone.

**Skills Development Fund:** As part of the IDP, RGC made a move to set up Skills Development Fund (SDF) managed by a project management unit at the Ministry of Economy and Finance. It is open for collaboration or participation by development partners and relevant line ministries. The first USD 5 million is for 3 years (2018-2021), focusing on five priority areas: manufacturing, construction, ICT, electronics, and tourism. This new facility is aimed at stimulating pragmatic public-private partnership projects in bridging the skills gaps in the economy. It is expected to attract higher value-added investments and generating decent jobs in line with the RGC vision to become a higher middle-income country by 2030.

**Support to SMEs:** In 2018, RGC issued a Sub-degree to provide tax break to SMEs for up to 5 years. In addition, SME Bank and Entrepreneurship Development Fund and Entrepreneurship Promotion Centre have been created by the Ministry of Economy of Finance and are expected to be up and running in 2019. This is in part to move the IDP.

**Public-Private Partnership Policy, Law and Secretariat:** As grants and concession loans are expected to go down when Cambodia is going to graduate from an LDC status, RGC embarked on a public-private partnership (PPP) approach for part of development financing. With assistance of the ADB, MEF drafted and government adopted a PPP Policy. The PPP law has been drafted and is expected to be passed in 2019. In late 2017, MEF set up a PPP Unit aimed at boosting PPP projects that are predominantly financed by private firms in nature. It is expected that contracts could be drawn between government agency (such as line ministries) and private partners in designing, building, operating and maintaining investment projects, including BOT and concession projects, worth more than USD 10 million for management efficiency.

## ***CSDG 11: Make cities, and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable***

### **Progress**

The Ministry of Environment has transferred 6 functions to sub-national level on the collection of solid waste, the management of drainage system, and natural resource protection. Actions have been implemented by the MoE, including monitoring and inspecting sources of pollution, monitoring the polluting sources from factories, piloting reporting system on the emission and movement of pollutants from other sources, and making inspection on environmental pollution crimes. The MoE has worked to raise the awareness of the plastic bag use. It worked with super markets and shopping centers in Phnom Penh to charge consumers who request for plastic bags for their shopping items.

**Table 14: Progress of CSDG 11**

Indicator		Unit	CSDG targets				Actual			Progress
			2015	2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018	
11.6.1	Amount of urban solid waste regularly collected and with adequate final discharge	Million Ton	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.3	-	-	-	-
11.6.2	Percentage of the deduction plastic bag used	%	10	10	10	10	-	-	-	-
11.6.3	Percentage of the solid wasted will be segregate by technical guidance	%	50	50	50	50	-	-	-	-
11.6.4	Annual average of the parameters of CO, NO <sub>2</sub> , SO <sub>2</sub> , TSP, PM <sub>2.5</sub> and PM <sub>10</sub>	%	4	4	4	4	-	-	-	-

### **Challenges**

Sub-national level capacity to manage waste is still limited. There is a limited awareness on environmental protection from stakeholders and the public. Regarding environmental protection education, there are no resource centers established to provide knowledge and information on environment, and well as human resources to implement the tasks. There is also a weak legal enforcement.

### **Key Policies/Accelerating Strategies**

Continuing partnership with DPs and the private sector for waste management. Collecting data on sources of pollution including solid wastes and liquid wastes. The management and monitoring of industrial wastes. The MoE has issued 5 sub-decrees, including Sub-Decree on Municipal Solid Waste Management, Sub-Decree on Social Environmental Fund, Sub-Decree on the Management of Electrical and Electronic Waste, Sub-Decree on Plastic Bag Management and Sub-decree on the Management of Sewage System and Water Treatment.

## Case Study 2: Battambang City

Battambang was selected as one of five pilot cities under the joint United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and UN-Habitat project, “Integrating the Sustainable Development Goals into local action in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific” (2018-2021). The project focuses on advocacy and capacity development for local government and other urban stakeholders in Battambang as related to the principles, goals, and means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and is being implemented in Battambang with local partners from different stakeholder groups. The project will support a pilot ‘demonstration project’ in the city, which will be determined by the multi-stakeholder network.

Battambang has selected solid waste management, livelihoods and local economic development, waste water, and affordable housing as the city’s SURM priorities. The focus on identifying integrated solutions to Battambang’s solid waste challenges is particularly relevant in the context of the targets and indicators adopted by the national government under SDG 11, which include target 11.6, to reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities and indicator 11.6.1, which is the proportion of urban solid waste regularly collected and with adequate final discharge out of the total urban solid waste generated.

The process operationalizing the localization of the SDGs is integral, and the SURM approach thus translates for the local level the systemic issues in SDG 17, the call to strengthen institutions and multi-stakeholder involvement from SDG 16, and takes cues from other “means of implementation” targets across the SDGs. The aim is to strengthen the capacities of local governments and other key urban stakeholders to achieve effective partnerships at the city-level by promoting three integral capacity development streams:

(i) collaborative and adaptive governance – the project aims to strengthen participatory planning, implementation, and “follow-up and review” at the local level in Battambang through the formation of an effective multi-stakeholder network, which will include stakeholders from local and national governments, civil society and community organizations, the private sector, and the research and academic community. The objective is that the different stakeholders learn and act together in meaningful partnership and thus arrive at more inclusive, needs-driven outcomes that genuinely “leave no one behind”.

(ii) strengthening the evidence base for decision-making – the project will support targeted collection and analysis of high-quality, timely, and reliable data on Battambang’s SURM priorities, that is aligned to SDG indicators, as well as identifying and using the existing data. The aim is to support the creation of an “evidence-base” (baseline and progress measurements), which will likely include vulnerability assessments and gender analyses to help identify the most promising approaches for localizing the SDGs in each city.

(iii) identifying integrated solutions using systems thinking – the project aims to develop the capacity of the multi-stakeholder network in Battambang to collectively analyze, plan, and implement in an integrated, systems-based manner. This entails maximizing co-benefits, creating added value through synergies, and effectively dealing with trade-offs and externalities across the three pillars of sustainable development. This capacity development stream relies on the outputs of the other streams, as the systemic approach to understanding challenges and identifying intervention points is to be done through participatory problem analysis and planning activities by the multi-stakeholder network (“collaborate”) and using the city’s new data baseline (aligned to relevant SDG indicators) to inform evidence-based decision-making and monitor progress (“strengthen evidence”).

The main expected outcomes of the project are strengthened awareness and institutional capacities of Battambang to accelerate multi stakeholder action on the SDGs at the local level through more integrated implementation of relevant urban development and land use plans in the city.

## ***CSDG 12: Ensure Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns***

### **Progress**

Cambodia ratified the Stockholm Convention on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2001, and the first National Implementation Plan (NIP) of the Convention was prepared in June 2006 and submitted to the Conference of the Parties. According to the Convention, all parties undertake to prepare an updating of implementation plan five years after submission of the original plan. The initial NIP established four action plans, namely: (1) Action Plan on POPs pesticides; (2) Action Plan on PCBs; (3) Action Plan on unintentionally produced POPs; and (4) Action Plan on the management of the NIP implementation.

The RGC delegated the ministry of environment to play a role as a national focal point for the Stockholm Convention. At the same time, in order to facilitate the implementation of the Stockholm Convention among relevant institutions and also for improving effective management of chemicals as well as POPs management, the Inter-Ministerial Technical Working Group-IMTWG (known as National Coordinating Committee-NCC) have been established with membership of governmental institutions, NGOs, and national institutes.

The MoE has regularly checked pollution from factories/industries. It also so provided guidance and implemented a pilot project on reporting system on the emission and movement of pollutants as well as inspected the environmental pollution. The MoE also monitor the quality of air to the check the acidic levels at 7 sites throughout Cambodia.

**Table 15: Progress of CSDG 12**

Indicator		Unit	CSDG targets				Actual			Progress
			2015	2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018	
12.4.1	Percentage of release reduction of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) to the environment	%	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	Below
12.4.2	Percentage of release reduction of mercury (Hg) to the environment	%	-	-	-	2.0	0.0	0.0	2.0	On track
12.4.3	Effectiveness management of hazardous waste and biological and radioactive waste	%	-	-	-	3.0	0.0	0.0	2.0	Below
12.5.1	National recycling of materials used	1000 Ton	163	163	175	178	247	304	290	Ahead

### **Challenges**

The main challenges to achieve CSDG12 is institutional arrangement and coordination because there are different ministries responsible for reduction plan implementation, monitoring, reporting and verification. Another challenge is that CSDG indicators are limited to environmental related work while the main focuses of the SDG should be on design out waste and pollution; keep products and materials in use and regenerate natural systems.



### **Key Policies/Accelerating Strategies**

As seen in the progress, MOE has adopted a number of conventions including Stockholm Convention related to the reduction of POP; Minamata Convention on Mercury for Mercury usage reduction. Regarding the hazardous waste management, MoE has issued a number of sub-decrees including Sub-Decree on Municipal Solid Waste Management, Sub-Decree on Social Environmental Fund, Sub-Decree on the Management of Electrical and Electronic Waste, Sub-Decree on Plastic Bag Management and Sub-decree on the Management of Sewage System and Water Treatment.

Sustainable Consumption and Production is integrated into the environmental code under the Environmental Management and Sustainability Mechanisms. The purpose is to promote the adoption of sustainable consumption and production practice as well as sustainable procurement.

Resources efficiency is essential part of sustainable consumption and production which can be achieved with low investment cost and effort. After the approval of environmental code, the sustainable consumption and production can be integrated in different sectors including, industry, tourism, energy, etc. Since SCP reflects such a significant shift away from our current 'take-make-dispose' culture, systemic change is necessary. This requires shifting from a traditional model of economic growth to a 'circular economy' approach, which is based on three things including designing out waste and pollution, keeping products and materials in use, and regenerating natural systems.

To ensure progress of CSDG12 implementation, it is recommended to have fix team or working group to work on the data collection, monitoring, reporting and verification on the progress of CSDG implementation.

## ***CSDG 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development***

### **Progress**

The MoE issued Sub-decree on Water Pollution Control in 1999 with an aim of managing quality water sources. The National Environment Strategy and Action Plan 2016-23 was developed with an aim to identify needs and opportunities for placing the environment and natural resources sustainability as one of the centralities in the national development framework. Related to the marine and coastal protection, this strategy views that action must be taken in order to strengthen coordination in the oil and gas prospecting, exploration and exploitation, transportation, coordinated emergency response capacity to potential accidents including oil and dangerous goods spills. The strategy's monitoring and evaluation framework, in which indicators in CSDG 14 have been included.

**Table 16: Progress of CSDG 14**

Indicator		Unit	CSDG targets				Actual			Progress
			2015	2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018	
14.1.1	Percentage of the reduction of the sea pollution by the conservation activities	%	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	-	-	-	-
14.2.1	Key ecosystem function and service of marine and coast area maintained and restore as necessary	%	50		50	50	-	-	-	-
14.2.2	Percentage of degraded freshwater flooded forests and mangrove forests (ha) that has been transplanted and protected.	%	7	7	10	15	-	-	-	-
14.5.1	Percentage of coverage of marine and inland fisheries conservation areas protected.	%	20	20	25	30	-	-	-	-
14.7.1	Value of sustainable fisheries production as a percentage of GDP.	% of GDP	8	8	8	8	-	-	-	-
14.b.1	Percentage of marine resources which small-scale fisheries farmers harvested and sold in a stable market	%	1	70	70	70	-	-	-	-

### **Challenges**

Research and development in the aquaculture is still limited and despite a lot of efforts have been made by the RGC to crack down illegal fishing activities, that issue still persist.

### **Key Policies/Accelerating Strategies**

The RGC will continue to build the capacity of fishery communities which have been established to ensure there are no fishing crimes for fresh water and sea water and continue to strengthen the management and conservation of sustainable aquatic resources according to Strategic Plan Framework for Fisheries 2015-24 and political statement fishery crime prevention. Moreover, it will enhance aquaculture production and supply by providing support to fish farms through technics, species, credit and market.

***CSDG 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss***

**Progress**

Cambodia has made a good progress on developing and implementing policies, strategies and regulations on ecosystem service. In 2015, the country established and implemented 6 policies, strategies and regulations on ecosystem services. In 2016, 2017 and 2018, the number of policies, strategies and regulations issued and implemented exceed the CSDG targets. The evaluation of forest coverage in 2016 shows that Cambodia has forest cover of 48.15% with an estimated change of 0.7% per year. In dealing with this, more and more protected areas have been established. Currently, protected areas cover 41% of the country. The establishment of National Protected Area Strategic Management Plan 2017-31 was issued.

**Table 17: Progress of CSDG 15**

Indicator		Unit	CSDG targets				Actual			Progress
			2015	2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018	
15.1.1	Forest area as a percentage of total land area	%	48.8	48.8		48.2	-	-	-	-
15.1.2	Percentage of important sites for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity that are covered by protected areas and fisheries conservation areas, by ecosystem type	%	10	10	12	15	-	-	-	-
15.1.3	Forest areas and ecosystems sustainably utilized.	Ha	-	50	-	-	-	-	-	-
15.2.1	Percentage of sustainable forest protection and management		-	-	40	45	-	-	-	-
15.3.1	Area of forest landscape restoration for areas affected by desertification, drought and floods	%	20	20	-	-	-	-	-	-
15.5.1	Number of action plans for conservation of rare and endangered species of fauna and flora developed and implemented	Number	1	1	4	7	-	-	-	-
15.7.1	Number of cases of illegal poaching and trafficking of flora and fauna decreased	Cases	1,600	1,600	1,550	1,500	-	-	-	-
15.9.2	Number of policies, strategies and regulations on ecosystem services is established and implemented	Number of portfolio	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15.b.1	Official development assistance for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems	% of GDP	-	0.038	0.036	0.036	0.019	0.018	0.048	Ahead

### **Challenges**

Limited capacity for implementing and coordinating works related to forest land, water and forest protection is the major challenge. Moreover, climate change, urbanization and industrialization are currently negatively affecting the country's natural resources as well as their ecological system. In order to improve this, the RGC will increase afforestation to improve forest coverage.

The availability of budget and facilities for implementing activities related to climate change, green growth and biodiversity protection is insufficient. Also, the policies and laws to ensure the sustainability of natural resources and environment do not sufficiently respond to today's needs. In addition, the institutional capacity to coordinate and harmonize policies, legal documents, strategic plans, and action plans remain an issue. The population growth is the challenges in sustainable forest conservation.

Related to climate change, there is a lack of participation from both the public and private sectors for sustainable development. Mainstreaming the principles of sustainable development including climate change, green growth, biodiversity in other sector's strategy and action plan has not been widely done.

The subnational level capacity needs to be built for a better planning and implementation of policies, strategies and action plans. There have been a number of conflicting cases especially dealing with land conflicts around protected areas and biodiversity conservation corridors remain to be done. There is a lack of information and data on biodiversity. Action plan on management, allocation and demarcation of protected areas have not yet been in place to ensure the effectiveness of management, protection and conservation of biodiversity in the protected areas.

### **Key Policies/Accelerating Policies**

Preparing strategies to increase forest cover through afforestation and conservation activities as well to rehabilitate genetic resources of trees and wildlife in the protected areas and biodiversity conservation corridors is priority needed. National REDD+ Strategy 2018-2028 was issued to contribute the reduction of national and global climate change through the improvement of natural resource management and forest land, conservation of biodiversity and sustainable development. In addition, Cambodia has been implemented the REDD+ in some provinces to increase emission reductions, increase carbon stock and sustainably manage forests as well as increase forest carbon inventory as well as develop new approaches for the development and conservation, including ecotourism and financing mechanism.

Cambodia continues to strengthen and enhance environmental education activities through environmental extension activities, updated environmental statistics and environmentally friendly programs for a better biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.

## ***CSDG 18: End the negative impact of Mine/ERW and promote victim assistance***

### **Progress**

Cambodia has made a good progress on mine and ERW although the actual achievements are generally lower than planned. The country aims at zero mine in 2025. For Goal 18.1.1, in 2016, the country has achieved 13,228 ha of land out of the planned 19,087 ha, in 2017, it achieved 14,673 ha out of the planned 19,659 ha and in 2018, 13,167 ha out of the planned 20,049 ha of landmine was cleared. The country satisfactorily achieved the reduction of mine and ERW casualties. In 2016 there were 83 cases reported out of the planned 100. And 2018 there were 58 cases of mine and ERW reported, while the target was 81. Risk Education Messages have been well implemented as planned. There is an increasing trend in the number of villages to receive the messages from 315 in 2016 to 347 in 2018. The number of mine casualties receiving right promotion were 296 persons, 314 and 320 in 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively, which follows the CSDG targets. The number of mine and ERW casualties received rehabilitation services, emergency and rapid responses were just a bit lower than planned.

**Table 18: Progress of CSDG 18**

Indicator		Unit	CSDG targets				Actual			Progress
			2015	2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018	
18.1.1	The annual report of cleared mine and ERW areas (ha)	Ha		19,087	19,659	20,049	13,228	14,672	12,432	Below
18.2.1	The number of mine / ERW casualties (killed and injured annually). (person)	Person		100	90	81	83	58	58	Ahead
18.2.2	The number of villages contaminated by mines / ERW to receive Mine Risk Education messages follow the annual work plan. (village)	Village		315	330	347	315	330	347	On track
18.3.1	The number of mine and ERW casualties received rights promotion. (person)	Person		296	309	324	296	314	320	On track
18.3.1	The number of mine and ERW casualties received rehabilitation service. (person)	Person		2300	3577	3648	2,300	3,246	3,582	On track
18.3.3	The number of mine and ERW casualties received emergency and rapid response from CMAA (person)	Person		123	137	139	123	128	124	Below

### **Challenges**

The land remains affected by mines and ERW is 1,970 km<sup>2</sup> as of December 2018. Moreover, mine and ERW funding has shown a decreasing trend because Cambodia



has moved into a lower-middle income country, which requires more funding from the government.

**Key Policies/Accelerating Strategies**

The country continues implementing mine action activities, with a focus on priority areas as stated in the National Mine Action Strategy 2018-2025, to accelerate the clearance of mine and ERW to achieve Known Mine-Free Cambodia 2025. The National Mine Action Strategy 2018-2025 has 8 goals: (1) Release all known landmine contaminated areas by 2025, (2) Release prioritized cluster munitions contaminated areas by 2025, (3) Address the threats from other explosive remnants of war. (4) Minimize mine/ERW including cluster munitions casualties, and improve livelihood of survivors and mine/ERW affected communities, (5) Contribute to economic growth and poverty reduction, (6) Promote regional and international disarmament and cooperation in mine action, (7) Establish a sustainable national capacity to address the residual threats after 2025, and (8) Ensure mine action activities are supported by enhanced quality management system and effective information management, and are gender and environment protection sensitive.

## Section 5: Means of Implementation

This section addresses the implementation challenges faced by the CSDG framework 2016-2030, which need to be addressed. The discussion focuses how the CSDG framework 2016-2030 can be used to shape policymaking and delivery, enabling progress towards the goals, and so also deliver Cambodia's medium-term strategic development objectives. It reviews existing instruments and institutions, and highlights where changes may be needed. The section has six sub-sections. It begins by considering the problems and issues faced in integrating the CSDGs within Cambodia's policy planning system. Second, it addresses resourcing questions and enabling actions. Third it reviews the monitoring and evaluation arrangements, and how wider feedback (outside government) can be secured. Fourth, it discusses why awareness-raising is important for CSDG implementation. Fifth, it examines what kind of the capacity building be built to have effective engagement of the civil servants in CSDG implementation. It concludes with a discussion of enhancing multi-stakeholder partnership.

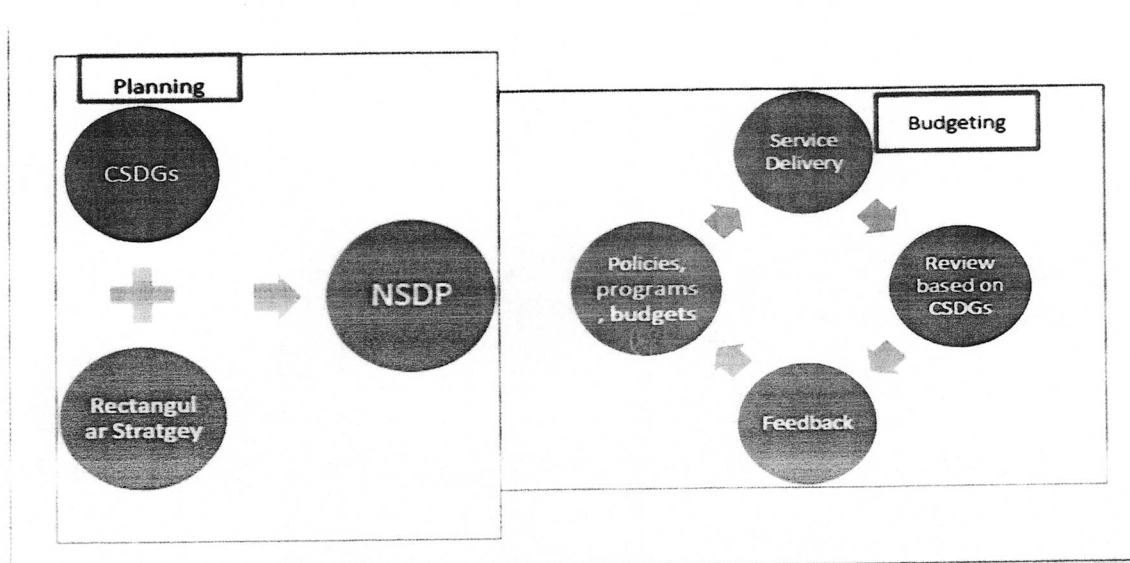
### ***5.1 Integrating the CSDGs within the National Policy and Planning Structures***

Integrating the CSDGs within policy and resource planning in Cambodia involves embedding the framework within current policy making and administrative arrangements. Two key challenges are faced: first, the need to ensure consistency and coherence between the CSDGs and plans and actions; and second, the need to prioritize and make policy choices, including between CSDG targets.

#### **Coherence and Consistency**

At national level, CSDG/ RGC coherence will be delivered via two points of intersection: first, via the NSDP process, for which the Framework and the RS are the principal inputs; and second within line ministry performance review and feedback (specifically adoption of multi-year programme-based budgeting via BSPs). The Framework's potential in these two linked processes, is shown in Figure 4.

Figure 4: CSDG Framework's points of intersection with planning and budgeting processes



First, the national strategic planning process (the first box in Figure 4) envisaged that the CSDGs would be matched with the medium-term RS objectives and longstanding NSDP themes, to define the policy approach within the National Plan (we return to this below when discussing prioritization) and these might be extended to the Public Investment Programme (PIP). Additionally, the CSDGs would play a major role in shaping the NSDP's M&E framework.

Second, the CSDGs can play a clear role within the performance review process, where Cambodia's PFM reforms have established 3-year rolling budgets linked to line ministry Budget Strategy Plans (BSPs), which match budgets to policy criteria. CSDG targets and indicators are well-suited to the task of measuring impact effectiveness, by offering a comprehensive set of outcome-level metrics that have already been agreed by the relevant line ministries and agencies.

MOP will seek to formalize and institutionalize these connections and the supporting arrangements. MOP will ensure the 5-yearly NSDP process takes account of a thoroughgoing CSDG progress report, and that key themes also feed through to the Public Investment Programme (PIP). Additionally, the NSDP M&E metrics will be regularly updated to ensure consistency, between the CSDGs and national planning priorities. MOP will also work with MEF and line ministries to apply the framework to performance-based budgeting (within line ministry BSPs) requiring that assessments take explicit account of relevant CSDG targets. This will serve to directly link the CSDGs to service delivery outcomes.

However, additional efforts and more significant innovations may be required in ensuring full consistency and coherence between the CSDGs and Government plans and actions. There are 3 dimensions to consider

- Temporal consistency – being the translation between the longer term (strategic) level to the medium term (policy) level and to the near term (operational) level.
- Sectoral consistency - the application of the goals within and across functions, this is particularly important given the integrated nature of the CSDGs and the tradeoffs and complementarities.
- And geographical, ensuring national, subnational and local plans are reconciled work together.

#### **Prioritization of goals, targets and actions**

Prioritization is a second key consideration and given the size and the ambition of the CSDG agenda, some ranking and phasing of targets and potentially goals, will be inevitable and essential (and this includes the selection of 'CSDG accelerators'). To an extent this requirement is an extension of the localization/ nationalization process, but additional specificity is needed, and the Royal Government via national planning processes and the proposed consultation structure set out above, will seek to identify the key targets and in what order they should be addressed. MOP will develop the priorities as part of the NSDP process, there are three pointers, which might guide this:

- First, the principle of leaving no one behind, and the need to address goals, and areas or population groups, which lag others is a foremost consideration. Incomplete goals

and other unfinished business under the CMDGs fall within this, and Cambodia will focus on making good on any areas where progress was not adequate - and a full list of the unmet CMDG targets was provided in Chapter II. Going forward, emerging disparities and inequities will be a key marker in identifying priorities.

- Second, the fit between the CSDG targets and existing and new national objectives must form the basis of Cambodia's general prioritization approach. By implication the use of the CSDG framework and the RS as joint inputs to the NSDP will deliver the operational prioritization.

- Third, drawing on global experience and guidance, consideration will be given to policy actions which serve as "accelerators" (those that drive progress across the whole CSDG agenda – examples include gender equity policies, child nutrition and interventions around the 'first 1000 days', rural infrastructure and comprehensive social protection reforms). Equally, the international literature and country experiences have highlighted the importance of identifying trade-offs and complementarities between targets, and of understanding the causal interconnections within the framework.

- An awareness of these issues alongside national aims and objectives, will provide a rigorous basis for prioritization, and MOP will seek to develop its capacity to undertake more sophisticated analysis as Cambodia progresses with implementation of policies and actions to deliver the CSGDs

## ***5.2 Resourcing and enabling the goals***

This sub-section considers the steps Cambodia needs to take to identify and assemble the resources needed to deliver the CSDGs, alongside a set of enabling actions. At the outset, it is useful to re-iterate that in contrast to the MDGs, the onus to resource new goals, falls primarily on national governments and on domestic sources.

Achieving CSDGs, given their scale, can also be characterized as being the business and responsibility of all actors and not only the government - but including the private sector, civil society and citizens themselves. It is also vital to recognize Cambodia's specific resourcing constraints versus the level of ambition represented by the CSDGs, alongside the Vision 2030 and 2050 objectives. Delivering these will require major investments and a matching expansion in resource flows.

Projections from the Development Finance Assessment (DFA) undertaken by the Council for the Development of Cambodia (CDC) in 2017, underline that although Cambodia's strong economic and fiscal performance is set to continue, including rapid increases in domestic revenue mobilization, serious financing challenges remain.

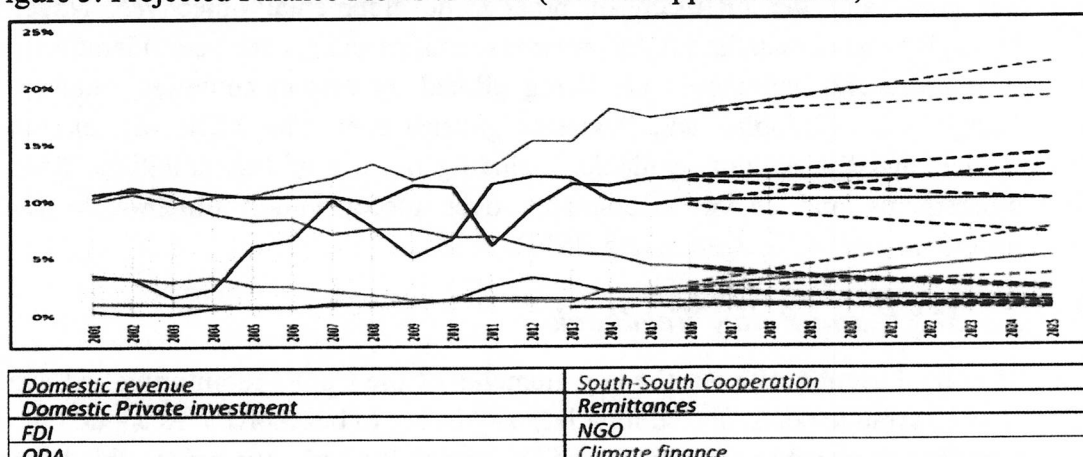
Referring to Figure 5 below, although government revenues (already above 18% of GDP) on the back of strong economic growth, are set to grow further, ODA and NGO flows will likely decline as Cambodia progress further as an MIC, and it will almost certainly be well-advanced in the process of graduating from the group of Least Developed Countries in the next decade. Moreover, these flows have a significance as they still account for a significant share of the public investment budget. Going forward, public revenues will have to meet growing pressures on the recurrent budget, driven by



increased expectations on public service delivery and rising public sector wages, and meet the previously ODA-supported and expanded, public investment needs.

This will require capacity improvements and systems strengthening of the NSDP development process, and MOP will seek to improve the analysis and forecasting of financial and other flows, by institutionalizing the DFA, and developing the analytical capacities of its core staff. MOP will also strengthen the Public Investment Programme (PIP) enabling it to function better as Government's strategic capital programme. This will also require further efforts to ensure stronger linkages are made between the PIP and the PFM/ BSP reforms being spearheaded by the MEF to shift to programme (performance-based) budgeting and to integrate recurrent and capital budgeting.

Figure 5: Projected Finance Flows to 2025 (low and upper scenarios)



Source: DFA, RGC (2017)

Additionally, as the DFA projections also show, although private investment (domestic and foreign) will grow in line with the economy, they are likely to stabilize as a share of GDP. Yet these flows are vital to maintaining the momentum of the economy and ensuring Cambodia's transition to higher value-added production. Economic growth remains the primary driver of poverty reduction and economic inclusion, and it provides the means of delivering higher tax revenues (in turn essential to enhanced public service delivery). Boosting the level of investment from these sources, while also strengthening their linkages to other sectors of the economy, is a key underlying CSDG objective and is consistent with the policies of the RGC, for example the Industrial Development Policy. The Royal Government will therefore continue to promote an investment-friendly climate while also continuing to improve the effectiveness of tax collection systems. Recognizing the distinct contribution that private sector actors can make, the Government will also provide avenues for business, civil society and citizen-actions to contribute to the CSDGs. This includes motivating and incentivizing behavioural change in production and consumption to "green the economy"; and the Royal Government will consider introducing appropriate tax and other incentives. Additionally, further work to facilitate Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) to directly deliver CSDG objectives, will be undertaken. The MEF has developed a national PPP policy and will now institute the necessary legislative changes to enable viable PPP modalities, initially for the provision of infrastructure, based on the retained earnings principle (i.e. Build and Operate and Build Operate and Transfer Models).

Finally, it is recognised that the discussion and proposed policy responses cover only the financing flows and delivery side of the equation. There is also a need also to develop capacities and instruments to analyse and project the likely costs of meeting the CSDGs and hence estimate the financing needs so that these approaches can be incorporated into the national budgeting exercise. The CSDG Framework data provides only a starting position, further detailed analytical work will be needed to assess future trends and demands.

However, past experiences with MDG cost estimation have revealed the weakness of detailed cross-sectoral costing exercises over long term periods. These generally provided inaccurate cost scenarios and were of limited value for resource and fiscal planning. Moreover, these challenges are likely to be accentuated by the expansion in the goals and the inclusion of broader developmental objectives. Nevertheless, managing and anticipating fiscal pressures remains an important consideration, and new techniques and approaches are being piloted by certain countries, notably by the Bangladeshi, Ethiopian and Pakistani governments. The MOP will explore these models and the options available, including the use of less ambitious fiscal space assessments and sector assessments over more limited timeframes (linked to programme-based budgeting and BSPs).

### ***5.3 M&E and Policy Feedback***

This final section sets out the key elements of the CSDG monitoring and evaluation (M&E) arrangements, and summarizes any issues to be resolved. Recognizing modern reporting approaches and that the CSDGs reach beyond government, this section also discusses improvements to the M&E ecosystem (the environment in which wider CSDG- relevant data and information is generated and used). It refers therefore to how independent think tanks, the private sector and civil society can be included in tracking Cambodia's progress, providing useful feedback to decision makers and can support national dialogues on the CSDGs.

#### **Key Elements of the M&E arrangements**

Overall responsibility for the national M&E process lies with MOP, who are charged with maintaining the CSDG indicator database and acting as lead technical focal point. The former task will include compiling data received and providing annual and five yearly milestone reports for review by the proposed CSDG NCC, and by the Royal Government. MOP's technical responsibilities will include advising RGC stakeholders on design, estimation and calculation of indicators, data collection, and on reporting procedures and conventions. Responsibility for the specification of indicators and the provision of supporting data rests with the respective line ministries and agencies. Their capacity and data systems will be strengthened through the National Strategy for Development of Statistics (NSDS), which is an important complementary initiative to designing and monitoring the CSDGs. The operational CSDG framework introduced in Chapter III and presented in Schedules 1 and 2 in Part 2 of this report, provides the indicators, sources and data cycles which have been committed to. Responsible actors will be required to provide up to date data to MOP to enable regular reporting, on a timely basis at the end of the reporting year. Line ministries and agencies will also be required to provide a narrative assessment on progress as part of the routine NSDP

review process that will fully integrate CSDG monitoring. This will define targets as either:

- Ahead of track, being ahead of the milestone value by at least 10%;
- On-track, being within plus or minus 10% of the given value;
- Off-track, being below the milestone by at least 10%.

The narrative should also provide an account of the underlying issues, and if required, proposals to remedy any underperformance. MOP will use a dashboard approach in reporting at target and goal level to allow rapid assessment of progress (grading targets as either green/ amber/ red based on the indicator data). Any proposals to amend base, milestone or end line values will require review and agreement by MOP as it is important that targets are not varied frequently, and values are established rigorously, and linked to defined CSDG policy objectives.

As noted in Chapter III, several data issues need to be resolved in the near term, and these will be followed-up by MOP within the next three months. Additionally, with the support of development partners, MOP in the period of 12 months will undertake a goal by goal review of indicators to ensure their quality (i.e. that they are compliant with the SMART criteria). MOP will also be providing a series of events to build SDG capacities within RGC ministries and agencies.; and is considering sponsoring work to enable the collection of currently unavailable indicators. The latter will prioritize those identified within the UNSD assessment as Feasible, which are considered important omissions to the CSDG dataset. This will align with the master of plan of National Institute of Statistic.

#### **Improving the CSDGs M&E ecosystem**

Given the wide scope of CSDGs, and that their delivery requires the contribution of all Cambodian stakeholders and their partners, the Royal Government will also seek to build “an ecosystem” supportive of wider feedback; and engage with the private sector, civil society and international organizations. This ecosystem refers to the environment (the people, connections and sources) where data is generated and used by official and non-official actors to support decision making on delivery of the CSDGs. It would for example include contributions based on government-generated data, by independent think tanks to assist RGC decisions makers, and independently generated information, used to drive private sector decisions, and/ or shape citizens behaviours.

To an extent, these practices were already underway under the CMDGs, but they need to be given greater prominence. Therefore, MOP, with development partners support, will move ahead with the following activities:

- National campaigns to sensitize stakeholders and the Cambodian public on the CSDGs, along with Communications for Development initiatives to encourage mass CSDG monitoring and compliance under those goals where improved consumer and producer behavior is especially important. This would make use of both traditional and new - social media and on-line platforms.
- Specific engagement with businesses and private sector representatives to chart and encourage their contribution to CSDG achievement.

- Development of CSDG policy circles and networks on thematic areas with Think Tanks and other CSO actors, potentially based on those sectors identified above within the CSDG NCC arrangements.
- Sharing of official data and building of on-line portals to allow, informed users, including citizens, to engage in M&E and research, and engage in national dialogue on the CSDGs.

#### ***5.4 Awareness Raising***

Awareness- raising for government, civil society organizations, the private sector, academia and individual citizens will be done since they will all be involved in the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs. Awareness-raising campaigns will be carried out at both national and subnational levels, mobilizing and building partnerships with different local stakeholders, bringing together all sectors of society, boosting their participation and ensuring that diversity is embraced. As the closest level of government to the people, local governments are well-placed to raise awareness about the importance of the SDGs and their relevance to local communities. Subnational governments bridge the gap between the central government and sub-national governments and should play a strong role in fostering the involvement of civil society organizations, the private sector, academia and other community-based organizations. Locally elected leaders, in particular, have a democratic mandate to lead local development and can be held accountable by citizens if they fail to do so. Such democratic accountability is a powerful tool to drive the achievement of the SDGs at local level. Awareness-raising activities will aim to increase the engagement of citizens and local communities in order to promote their sense of ownership of the agenda and their participation in the achievement of the SDGs at local level. But awareness-raising is not only about letting citizens know about the existence of the CSDGs. It is also about empowering them to participate in the achievement of the CSDGs in their daily lives. Subnational governments should be supported to recognize the 2030 Agenda as a framework for action, and set up mechanisms that enable citizen participation and institutional accountability.

#### ***5.5 Capacity Building***

Initiatives aimed at developing or accessing skills and knowledge are particularly important to enable their effective engagement in SDG implementation, since capacity constraints are often identified as one of the main challenges for local governments. Building the capacity of government officials to promote sustainable development can involve broader reforms and support than strengthening intergovernmental systems and better governance. These measures can include enhancing capacities for strategic development and implementation, through improved planning, budgeting and financial management systems and most importantly capacity to collect and analyze CSDGs related data.

#### **Directions lead by NIS**

The NIS of the Ministry of MoP is undertaking many important activities to develop and implement the SDG monitoring system and, especially establish a national implementation plan for SDGs measurement and data collection framework. This



includes activity to improve the collection and systematization of the relevant administrative data as well as to identify optimal ways to merge data from various sources. Other actions, the NIS has also been closely working with UN organizations and other international agencies in seeking support both in terms of needed funding and technical assistance, in particular based on the existing major national sample surveys such as CSES and CDHS, the compiling those SDG indicators classified under easily feasible and the new survey modules will be designed and conducted. As practical efforts the NIS as coordination agency of the NSS will lead continue to undertake the reviewing data collection framework (e.g. censuses, surveys, administrative data and Big data) for their comparative advantages including obtaining the statistically significant results in the most cost-effective way.

Also, options for provision of additional support to NSS will continued discussion, including participation of development partners, especially the UN organizations in the meetings of the Statistics Coordination Committee (SCC) and Technical Working Group on Planning and Poverty Reduction Sub-group Data for Development (TWG-PPR Sub-group D4D) in order to be updated on the specific needs in financial and technical assistance and timely informing them regarding the NIS and statistical units of the line ministries of the NSS requests for capacity building activities needed, such as training at the NIS and provincial statistical offices. The need of mapping UN agencies and other development partners' activities to the SDG targets and indicators and raising awareness of the line ministries and institutions of the importance of the availability of high-quality administrative data for the compilation of the SDG indicators, including proxy and supplementary indicators are critically important.

The National Institute of Statistics (NIS) of the Ministry of Planning is currently working to establish a new statistical and administrative data input and dissemination/exchange tool using Stat Suite (with data based on the legacy CAMInfo platform that relies on the now defunct DevInfo system) with support from UNSD, UNICEF, OECD and PRIS21. This new platform will cover SDG indicators and all other development related indicators (for NSDP, Sectoral Plans and others):

- Building open data and statistical ecosystem, linking with global SDG platform, that: (a) provides platforms to enable timely collection and sharing of quality and reliable data; (b) promotes adequate disclosure and accountability of data producers; and (c) sensitizes non-government stakeholders to data as part of engagement in SDGs monitoring and implementation.
- Support for the adoption and contextualization of international practices and standards through development of statistical protocols (concepts, methodologies, classifications, maintenance of statistical registers, and guidelines for production, analysis, data exchange and dissemination), and and support building capacity to use these Statistical Protocols and statistical guidelines aiming at improving the coordination within the National Statistical System (NSS) and data sharing among the government agencies.
- Reassess the statistical capacity of the Cambodian Statistical System (CSS) to compile the global and localized SDG indicators and to assess/provide assistance



in the preparation of the national strategic implementation plan to measure the progress toward the SDGs in the country.

### ***5.6 Enhancing Multi Stakeholder Partnership***

Partnerships for sustainable development are multi-stakeholder initiatives voluntarily undertaken by Governments, intergovernmental organizations, major groups and others stakeholders, which efforts are contributing to the implementation of inter-governmentally agreed development goals and commitments, as included in Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, the Millennium Declaration, the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) entitled “The Future We Want”, the Third International Conference on Small island Developing States, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Sustainable Development Goal 17, which reads “Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development”, recognizes multi-stakeholder partnerships as important vehicles for mobilizing and sharing knowledge, expertise, technologies and financial resources to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries, particularly developing countries. Goal 17 further seek to encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships.

The RGC will fully be committed to continue working in partnership to secure successful implementation of its Policy Agenda which is operationalized by the 2019-2023 National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP), including the Cambodia Sustainable Development Goals (CSDGs). The objectives of DCPS are to mobilize and manage all forms of development finance so that development finance resources are maximized, development finance resources are aligned with national development priorities development finance resources achieve the best possible results (RS IV, CSDGs).

## Section 6: Conclusion

The localization of SDGs in Cambodia is a long process which involves many stakeholders. Formal development process of the CSDGs started after many rounds of debriefing sessions with relevant stakeholders, including policymakers, ministries, related agencies, and the Cambodian public. CSDGs Framework was fully developed after two years of concerted effort made by relevant ministries and agencies led by the MOP. The Framework includes proposals on how the goals would be integrated within Cambodia's policy and delivery systems.

The localization process of the SDGs in Cambodia began with the assessment of achievements and unfinished goals of the CMDGs in relation to the goals, targets and indicators of the SDGs. Priority is given to the coordination of the planning and implementation of the SDGs with local development strategies as the NSDP 2019-2023, assessments are also made on the alignment of the SDGs with these current national development planning and policies to identify gaps and determine where plans and policies do not align with the SDG targets.

The RGC has considered the VNR is a learning process and initiated preparation for the delivery of a VNR for the 2019 session of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development with the theme of 'Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality.' The VNR will be focused on six key goals including (1) SDG 4 (quality education), (2) SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), (3) SDG 10 (reduced inequalities), (4) SDG 13 (climate action), (5) SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions), and (7) SDG 17 (partnerships for the goals). At this initial stage of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the VNR is an important step for RGC to take stock of our progress and to engage in stakeholder consultations toward the achievement of SDGs.

This review is based on a mixed research approach which consists of stock taking of the current position, desk reviews, and interviews within key stakeholders to evaluate progresses, challenges, and key policies to accelerate CSDGs. Key documents reviewed included the Rectangular Strategy IV, the CSDGs Framework 2016-2030, and the drafted NSDP 2019-2023, as well as other sectoral strategic plans. These were thoroughly examined to get a better understanding of progresses and challenges by goals and indicators of each CSDG.

The review shows that despite its early stage, Cambodia has made good progress in many fronts. In education sector, the completion rate at primary, the completion rate at secondary and the proportion of grade 1 students passed through all ECE programs has increased from 80.6%, 39.2%, and 64.1 in 2015 to 86.1%, 47.6% and 72, respectively, in 2018. Similarly, Cambodia achieved gender parity in education sector, and beginning to tilt in the favor of girls in recent years. Economic wise, Cambodia has also achieved steady growth for the last two decades of around 7.0% and attained lower middle-income status in 2015, while the national poverty continues to go down by around one percent per year on average.

The government also commits to mainstream the environment and natural resources sustainability into the national development framework, demonstrated through the establishment of the National Council for Sustainable Development. The Cambodia Climate Change Strategic Plan 2014-2023, which is a comprehensive national policy

documents that illustrate not only the country's priority adaptation needs, but also provide roadmaps for the de-carbonisation of key economic sectors and the enhancement of carbon sinks. Further, Cambodia has developed a Green Growth Policy and Roadmap which sets the path to stimulating the economy through low carbon options, savings and creating jobs, protecting vulnerable groups, and improving environmental sustainability.

Data quality and management is one among many challenges facing the implementation of CSDGs. Administrative data systems in many goal areas still need strengthening. As RGC moves forward with the CSDGs and implements its national development plans (NSDP 2019-2023 and sectoral plans), enhanced support is needed to strengthen the information systems of ministries, particularly in the areas where these cannot yet produce robust and disaggregated data on the localized SDG indicators.

The RGC will implement the CSDGs through NSDP 2019-2023 using various financing sources identified in the assessment of development finance and aid. This will require capacity improvements and systems strengthening of the NSDP development process, and MOP will seek to improve the analysis and forecasting of financial and other flows, by institutionalizing the DFA, and developing the analytical capacities of its core staff. MOP will also strengthen the Public Investment Programme (PIP) enabling it to function better as Government's strategic capital programme. This will also require further efforts to ensure stronger linkages are made between the PIP and the PFM/ BSP reforms being spearheaded by the MEF to shift to programme (performance-based) budgeting and to integrate recurrent and capital budgeting.

The Government's strong commitment to the 2030 Agenda drives the VNR process. This commitment underpins the institutional arrangements set up for the SDGs, as well as the early localization of the SDGs, and the integration of the CSDGs into the national planning frameworks. Going forward, the Government will continue to engage a broad array of stakeholders to address the challenges identified in this report, learn from past lessons, and consolidate achievements as the country moves towards the realization of the NSDP 2019-2023, and the Vision 2030 as well as the Sustainable Development Goals.

The first part of the paper discusses the importance of the study of the history of the United States. It is argued that a knowledge of the past is essential for a full understanding of the present and for the development of a sound policy for the future. The author then proceeds to a detailed examination of the various factors which have shaped the development of the United States, including the influence of the European immigrants, the role of the American Indians, and the impact of the American Revolution.

The second part of the paper is devoted to a discussion of the various theories which have been advanced to explain the development of the United States. These theories include the idea of the "frontier," the concept of "manifest destiny," and the theory of "American exceptionalism." The author examines each of these theories in turn, pointing out their strengths and weaknesses, and then offers his own conclusions as to which theory best explains the development of the United States.

The third part of the paper is a critical examination of the various historical sources which have been used to study the history of the United States. The author discusses the reliability of the various types of sources, including the written word, the oral tradition, and the archaeological record. He then offers his own conclusions as to which sources are most reliable and which should be given the greatest weight in the study of the history of the United States.

The fourth part of the paper is a discussion of the various methods which have been used to study the history of the United States. The author examines the various types of methods, including the traditional method of the historian, the method of the social scientist, and the method of the literary critic. He then offers his own conclusions as to which method is most reliable and which should be given the greatest weight in the study of the history of the United States.

The fifth part of the paper is a discussion of the various problems which have been encountered in the study of the history of the United States. The author examines the various types of problems, including the problem of the "frontier," the problem of the "American Indian," and the problem of the "American Revolution." He then offers his own conclusions as to which problems are most important and which should be given the greatest weight in the study of the history of the United States.