



INDEPENDENT COUNTRY PROGRAMME EVALUATION

CAMBODIA

EVALUATION PERIOD: 2019-2023

COUNTRY PROFILE

Population

16.9 million people
(2021)



GDP

\$1,543
(2020)



Women in the National Parliament

21.6% of seats
2021



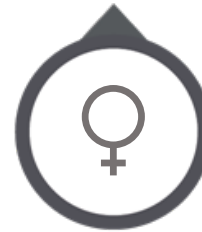
0.58
(2018)

Gini Coefficient



29.0% persons
with disabilities
16% persons
without disabilities
(2022)

Unemployment



18.1 ha
Forest Area (2016)

Deforestation

PROGRAMME OUTCOME AREAS

2019-2023

Millions US\$

Peace: participation and accountability (9 projects)

4

Planet: sustainable living (17 projects)

28

Prosperity: expanding economic opportunities (15 projects)

49

Total budget: 98.7 M

■ Expenditure

CONCLUSIONS

1. UNDP delivered important results, especially in assisting the RGC in developing needed research to inform policies.
2. UNDP's agility, flexibility, and comparative advantage as a trusted partner of the RGC contributed to the success of its COVID-19 response.
3. UNDP successfully showcased and advocated for renewable energy and low-emission technologies.
4. Stakeholders recognize UNDP's strength in providing technical inputs and access to a global network of expertise and experience on environmental issues.
5. UNDP contributed to strengthening and advancing the institutional and legal framework of disability rights in Cambodia.
6. Gender is not fully mainstreamed in the UNDP country programme.
7. UNDP has contributed to creating and widening democratic spaces to the best of its ability, though it was absent in politically sensitive issues such as land rights.
8. UNDP was able to build external coherence by dovetailing in the results of its development partner (or vice versa), sharing knowledge products.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR UNDP

1. UNDP should continue working on the areas of economic empowerment and environmental sustainability, building on the results it has delivered so far.
2. UNDP needs to rethink its current approach to its governance programming, not necessarily having a standalone outcome, but having a country programme with a systems approach of embedding governance across all thematic areas – one which integrates a rights-based approach and political economy analyses.
3. UNDP should build on the results of its disability inclusion initiatives with stronger and more explicit linkage with programming aimed at expanding social protection, poverty reduction, and strengthening access to social, economic, and legal aid services components for persons with disabilities.
4. UNDP should reinvigorate its strategy and programme in supporting GEWE by exploring and broadening its partnership and collaborations to leverage and support initiatives from other development partners that have established track record in advancing gender equality.
5. UNDP should consolidate its resources by implementing its programme through an area-based approach, which it has recently adopted, concentrating in provinces or regions with a clear rationale for UNDP interventions and where it can create additionality. It should also underpin its programming with a whole-of-government approach, especially at the subnational level, where it can also create civic spaces which support more inclusive governance.
6. The next UNDP country programme should be cognizant of Cambodia's upper middle-income country ambition and help prepare the country to transition from grants and aid to development financing. UNDP should build on its success in mobilizing and implementing the large government cost-sharing funds for COVID-19 response. UNDP should be selective of its pilot projects and should plan for broader adoption at the design phase.



ABOUT THE INDEPENDENT EVALUATION OFFICE

By generating evaluative evidence, the Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) supports UNDP to achieve greater accountability and facilitates improved learning from experience. The IEO enhances UNDP's development effectiveness through its programmatic and thematic evaluations and contributes to organizational transparency.

ABOUT ICPEs

The IEO of UNDP conducts Independent Country Programme Evaluations (ICPEs) to assess UNDP's performance at the country level. These evaluations support the formulation of a new UNDP country programme strategy in facilitating and leveraging national efforts to advance inclusive and sustainable development.