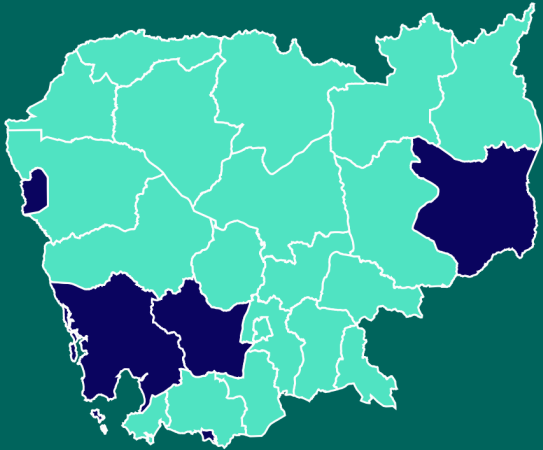


# COUNTRY STRATEGY AND PROGRAMME EVALUATION THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA 1996-2017

Independent Office  
of Evaluation



## COUNTRY CONTEXT

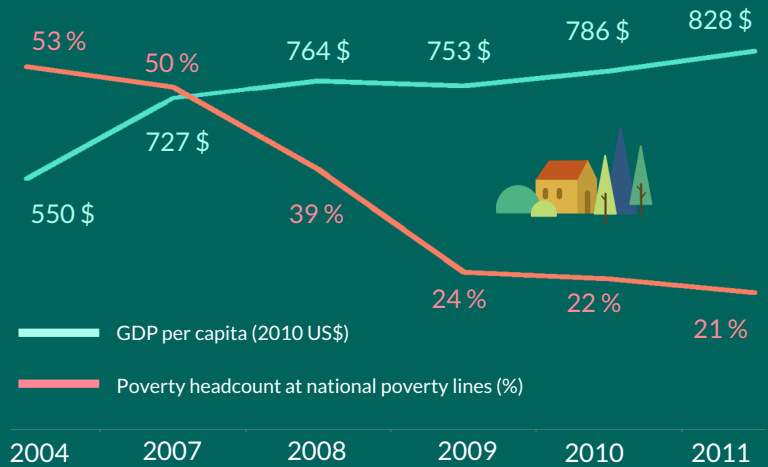


● Provinces covered by IFAD operations since 1998

- Population ● 15.8 million (2016)
- Rural population ● 12.5 million (2017)
- Human development index ● 0.563 (2014)
- Life expectancy at birth ● 67.5 years (2012)

Over the past decade, the Kingdom of Cambodia has made considerable progress in poverty reduction and economic growth.

Source: United Nations Development Programme; World Bank.



Source: World Bank

## IFAD OPERATIONS

- 9** IFAD supported projects since 1996
- 354 million US\$** Total cost of portfolio
- 4** Ongoing IFAD-supported projects
- 251 million US\$** Total cost for 4 ongoing projects
- 129 million US\$** IFAD financing for 4 ongoing projects

## MAIN INTERVENTION AREAS



Agriculture and extension services



Support to decentralisation and local governance



Market access



Group revolving fund, micro/rural finance



Rural infrastructure



Climate change adaptation

Cambodia Country Strategy Timeline



COSOP = Country Strategic Opportunities Programme

# EVALUATION STORYLINE

The IFAD-supported programme has been aligned with government policies and strategies, for example, support to agriculture and decentralization processes.

In the last two decades, the role of IFAD shifted from co-financing of other aid agencies' initiatives to being a leading financier whose experience in pro-poor agriculture and rural development is valued by other development partners.



The country and rural context have evolved and IFAD's strategy and project design also shifted in an effort to adapt but with some delay. The portfolio remained largely static up to around 2010 with the repetition of similar approaches, e.g. group formation, agricultural training and group revolving fund support.



Support in recent projects to market-oriented agriculture with relatively advanced smallholder farmers is relevant, also to encourage the younger generation to stay in agriculture. At the same time, it is important to bolster the coping strategies of poorer households.

## KEY FINDINGS

### Areas of strength

- Contribution to increased agricultural productivity and diversification of poor rural households
- Access by rural women to better and broadened economic opportunities and their increased participation and roles in public spheres
- Effective support to the Government's "D&D policy" by channelling investments through decentralized structures and providing opportunities for "learning by doing"
- Partnerships with farmer organizations and indigenous people's organizations as a unique feature of IFAD

### Areas for improvement

- More focused and concerted efforts to empower beneficiaries and their organizations, on the basis of the main purposes of different types of organizations
- Strengthening agricultural extension and training approaches to be responsive and relevant to farmers demand as well as capacity and conditions
- Reflection on labor shortages for rural households in project strategy and designs
- Upgrading monitoring and evaluation and knowledge management for policy engagement and scaling-up
- Better coordination and synergies between grants and investment projects



## RECOMMENDATIONS

1

Develop a two-pronged strategy supporting agricultural commercialization for advanced smallholders and coping strategies for poor households.

Develop and operationalize tailored strategies for the target group and specific contexts.

2

Balance investment in human capital and rural organizations supported by strategic partners with tangible items that enable beneficiaries to put the skills and knowledge acquired into practice.

3

Strategic use of grants and investment financing to deepen partnerships with farmer organizations and associations.

4

Explore options for supporting regulatory services in agriculture in future pipeline development.

Sustainable agriculture and commercialisation requires effective regulatory services (e.g. phytosanitary & veterinary control).

5

Facilitate mobilization of other partners to invest in smallholder agriculture.

Ongoing ASPIRE and AIMS could serve as a platform to bring in other partners for two agricultural extension and pro-poor agricultural value chain development.