

World Bank Group Consultations on Cambodia's Development Challenges and Opportunities
Consultation with Development Partners and UN agencies
July 10, 2015
SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK

The World Bank Group (WBG) met with 23 participants on July 10, 2015 at Phnom Penh to exchange views and perceptions on Cambodia's development opportunities and pressing challenges, and ways to address them in the next two to three years. The discussion focused on three guiding questions:

1. What are Cambodia's development opportunities in the next 2-3 years?
2. What are Cambodia's most pressing challenges to be addressed in the next 2-3 years?
3. What policies, reforms and investments will be most important for Cambodia over the next 2-3 years to realize these opportunities and overcome these challenges?

1. What are Cambodia's development opportunities in the next 2-3 years?

- **Education:** Leverage the leadership of the Minister of Education to engage on improved universal education outcomes.
- **Social Protection:** An increased number of social protection activities have been tested or are underway, supported by, among others, the World Food Program, the World Bank. These provide good bases for operationalization at national level.

2. What are Cambodia's most pressing challenges to be addressed in the next 2-3 years?

- There is a high level of vulnerability, and inadequate access to social services by the poor and vulnerable.

3. What policies, reforms and investments will be most important for Cambodia over the next 2-3 years to realize these opportunities and overcome these constraints?

- **Social Protection:** Scale up social protection programs, linked to promotion of outcomes in education and health.



<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Agriculture: Understanding the economics of agriculture (i.e., comparative advantage for Cambodia) is urgent, so as to devise policies and programs for agriculture in face of increasing competition (e.g., with phasing out of rice scheme in Thailand).
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Disaster Risk Management: Need better understanding of how disasters interact with livelihood of population (e.g., mapping of potentially affected areas and populations, and devise appropriate mitigation plans).
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Migration: Need to assess how migration impacts livelihoods of communities and devise options for leveraging migration to further economic and social progress.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Land tenure: The issue of land tenure is challenging for all countries.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• FDI and Industrial Development Policy (IDP): Support implementation of IDP to promote economic diversification and higher value-added industries.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Skills: Need to engage with private sector to promote sustainable technical vocational education and training.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Service delivery at local level: Need to sustain engagement on the public financial management, Decentralization and Deconcentration, and public administration reform nexus
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ASEAN: Help Cambodia be better prepared by improving the business environment.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inclusion: Urban poverty is on the rise; there is a need for broad-based engagement on urban planning and development.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Health: Improve health system and access for the poor (Health Equity Fund). Australia's continuous engagement requires WB engagement.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rural water supply and sanitation: Maintain and scale up engagement in this critical sector.