

## Summary of World Bank Group Stakeholder Consultations in Cambodia

From June 29 through July 13, 2015, the World Bank Group (WBG) carried out consultations with a wide range of stakeholders 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 consultation process included 17 face-to-face meetings with 635 stakeholders, including national and sub-national government officials and representatives, parliamentarians, private sector and civil society representatives, and development partners and UN agencies. The meetings were conducted in English and Khmer. The sub-national meetings were held in Kampong Cham, Siem Reap, Sihanoukville, and Phnom Penh, with around 380 commune and district council members and provincial officials from 18 provinces. The national-level government meetings were held in Phnom Penh with participants from ministries and agencies grouped according to the focus areas of the Government's Rectangular Strategy, as well as with the Anti-Corruption Unit. In addition to these government agencies, the WBG also met with members of the National Assembly.

Participants in the civil society consultation meeting were selected by four NGO networks: the Cooperation Committee of Cambodia (CCC), NGO Forum, Community Peacebuilding Network, and Khmer Youth Association. Each network invited about 10-20 participants.

The WBG sought feedback on the following guiding questions:

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

A consultation website (English and Khmer) supported the consultation process. This website features the consultation plan, background materials, a schedule of the consultation meetings, and feedback summaries from selected consultation meetings (i.e., civil society, private sector and development partners). To encourage wider participation, interested stakeholders had the opportunity to submit written comments through a questionnaire available on the website, which they could submit electronically or download and send to the WB Office in Phnom Penh.

The meetings were highly constructive, both in spirit and content, and there was high-level participation from government, including ministers and secretaries of state. There were many forward-looking insights expressed during the meetings and a general consistency among points raised by the participants, including government (at various levels), private sector, development partners and UN agencies, and civil society organizations.

Several common themes emerged across the different stakeholder groups:

- Agriculture / Irrigation: *improve productivity, diversify production, improve value-added and competitiveness, develop irrigation master plan*

- Rural Infrastructure: *roads, electrification, water supply and sanitation*
- Land: *tenure security, Social land concession (SLC)*
- Education / Skills: *more than access, quality; more than general education, technical skills needed for employment*
- Health: *access for the poor, Health Equity Fund (HEF)*
- Decentralization: *service delivery closer to people, conditional grant facility*
- Governance / Anticorruption: *strengthen prevention and policing*
- Livelihood Support: *rural and urban poor*
- Disaster Risk Management: *risk assessment, mitigation*
- Transport connectivity / logistics: *master plan development*
- Industrial Development Policy (IDP): *business climate, export promotion and diversification*

This note summarizes the inputs and feedbacks received in all the consultation meetings.

## Summary of Feedback from Stakeholders

Thematic Area	Recommended Areas of Focus Based on Feedback from All Consultations
Livelihoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Target population is rural poor (majority) but fast growing urban poor.</li><li>• Implementation of livelihood support strategy for urban poor and communities in Phnom Penh.</li></ul>
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• More than access: quality;</li><li>• More than general education: technical skills for employment</li></ul>
Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Expand access to quality health services (infrastructure, human capacity, systems)</li><li>• Ensure equity of access, e.g. Health Equity Fund</li><li>• Address chronic malnutrition</li></ul>
Social Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Protecting vulnerable from falling back into poverty</li></ul>

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Governance

- Improving efficiency and effectiveness in public resources allocations – Public Financial Management (PFM).
  - Get service delivery closer to people; PFM, Public Administrative Reform (PAR) and D&D nexus:
    - Consolidating decentralization to the commune level, focusing on small scale rural infrastructure.
    - Functional assignments to the district level, redeploying and building capacity of related staff, initially focusing on delivery of services such as primary education, rural roads, solid waste management
    - Fiscal Decentralization – Develop a conditional grant facility at the district level to complement existing discretionary block grant financing at local level
  - Anticorruption - Design and/or implement measures on prevention and policing
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Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Upgrade road network to higher standard for more intense traffic and resilience to flooding and climate change.</li><li>• Periodic road maintenance, including use of performance based contracting.</li><li>• Improve road safety</li><li>• Development of multi-modal transport</li><li>• Railway link to Thailand and Vietnam</li><li>• Waterway transport has potential to lower logistics costs.</li><li>• Rural access</li><li>• Electrification</li><li>• Water supply and sanitation</li></ul>
Trade and Private Sector Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increasing competitiveness in light manufacturing- implications for Cambodia of:</li><li>• FTA between Vietnam and the EU</li><li>• participation of Vietnam in the Trans Pacific Partnership (access to US markets)</li><li>• participation of Myanmar in the EU EBA scheme</li><li>• Implementing Industrial Development Policy</li><li>• Developing a Master Plan for Logistics</li><li>• Developing Sihanoukville as a Special Economic Zone and tourist destination</li><li>• Addressing constraints of limited access and high cost of electricity</li><li>• Implementing Master Plan for National Single Window</li></ul>

Disaster Risk Prevention and Preparedness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Country-wide risk assessment, flood database, as input to land use planning and zoning and economic planning, as well as preparedness.</li><li>• Mainstreaming into infrastructure planning and design.</li><li>• Business continuity planning.</li><li>• Preparedness planning. Identify areas where assistance to vulnerable groups impacted by natural shocks will likely be needed.</li></ul>
Agriculture and Natural Resources Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Improve productivity and diversifying production</li><li>• Improve value-added and competitiveness</li><li>• Increase access to extension services</li><li>• Increase access to irrigation: master plan for coordinated irrigation development</li><li>• Improve knowledge base (key data) and understanding of economics of agriculture</li><li>• Land: Land management, tenure security, distribution (Social Land Concession)</li><li>• Improve water and fisheries management</li></ul>