

DECENT EMPLOYMENT FOR YOUTH IN CAMBODIA (DEY) - PHASE II



Student blended learning Ecole d'Hotellerie et de Tourisme Paul Dubrule,
Siem Reap, Cambodia, Photo© EHT

a market-oriented and flexible TVET system, and the promotion of decent and productive employment opportunities. Switzerland, together with four UN agencies, strengthens Cambodia's efforts to address key challenges for its young population.

This project forms an integral part of the Swiss Cooperation Programme in the Mekong Region 2022-25.

OBJECTIVES

The project aims at the following overall goal: Young women and men increasingly obtain decent and productive employment opportunities. DEY works towards achieving three outcomes:

Outcome 1: Young women and men in Cambodia have demand-driven skills and competencies, including soft, life, green, and digital skills relevant to current and future labour market needs.

Outcome 2: Young women and men in Cambodia have adequate entrepreneurial capacity and increasingly access business development services.

Outcome 3: Young women and men in Cambodia are able to make career decisions based on relevant knowledge and support services for decent and productive employment.

EXPECTED RESULTS

The project supports a total of 170,900 youth (50% women) in accessing training, education, employment, entrepreneurship, business development services, and relevant labour market information. 3,000 young women and men are expected to obtain employment/self-employment with decent monthly earnings. The envisaged outputs are: (1) Improved quality, effectiveness, and coordination of the

BACKGROUND

Youth in Cambodia face significant challenges when entering the labour market with a low educational background and a lack of relevant technical and soft skills in a context of rapid structural and technological change. Some of the reasons are high drop-out rates from secondary schools, weak capacity of the TVET system to respond to changing market needs, and weaknesses in the country's business ecosystem as a source of employment for youth. Moreover, youth employment is characterized by high levels of informality, vulnerability, and inadequate quality of work. The National Employment Policy 2015-2025, the National TVET Policy 2017-2025, the Industrial Development Policy 2015-2025, and the National Policy on Youth Development 2011 address the country's needs for human resource development. They aim at improving the quality of training, including

PROJECT AT A GLANCE:

Duration

Phase I: Sep 2017 - Dec 2019
Phase II: Jan 2020 - Dec 2023

Budget

Total budget:
USD 8,470,000
Swiss contribution:
CHF 4,000,000

Implementing Agencies

- ILO
- UNIDO
- UNESCO
- UNICEF

Other partners

- Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training,
- Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport
- Ministry of Tourism,
- National Employment Agency,
- Trade unions,
- NGOs
- Private sector including CAMFEBA

Imprint

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national TVET system with increased private sector engagement in TVET design and delivery. 200 trainers and assessors improve their capacity to deliver TVET training; (2) A strengthened enabling environment for youth entrepreneurship including relevant education and trainings in and out of schools; 200 businesses of young women and men, 200 enterprises providing employment to youth, and three business associations receive support for business development; (3) Increased availability of gender-responsive career advisory and support services; mechanisms in place that allow youth to influence national policy-making and programme development with respect to youth employment. The project focuses on the four sectors of tourism, agro-business, construction, and manufacturing.

APPROACH

DEY combines the expertise of the four UN agencies ILO, UNIDO, UNESCO and UNICEF to achieve the expected outcomes in close collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training (MoLVT), the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MoEYS), the Ministry of Tourism (MoT), and the Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF). This includes strengthening their capacities as well as reinforcing mechanisms to address skills development challenges and maintaining dialogue with government to increase budget allocation for TVET and employment-relevant sectors. Another important element is enhancing the capacities of the private sector towards involvement in the design and delivery of TVET, including work-based learning, quality apprenticeships, and to improve the effectiveness of sectoral skills councils, employers' associations, and selected entrepreneurship associations. To foster an enabling environment for youth entrepreneurship and enterprises, DEY increases awareness of entrepreneurship as an employment option for youth and expands training in entrepreneurship and soft skills to secondary schools, TVET institutes, out-of-school youth, and youth business. To improve the quality and outreach of employment career guidance/counselling and information services for youth, DEY collaborates with the National Employment Agency and its job centres. To engage youth in influencing national employment policy, DEY supports the capacity development of the National Youth Development Council and youth committees within trade unions while at the same time strengthening the capacity and knowledge of the government, employers, trade unions, and other relevant stakeholders on youth rights and responsibilities at work.

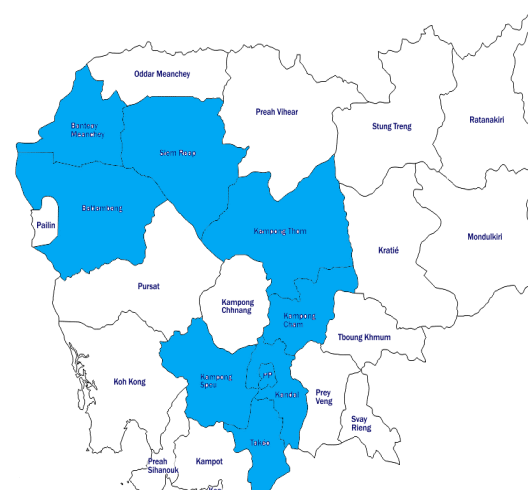
The programme is committed to gender equality and the rights, inclusion, and empowerment of vulnerable youth.

KEY RESULTS AND INSIGHTS OF PHASE I

1,380 (38% women) youth accessed TVET. Two initiatives developed in phase I were integrated into the Education Strategic Plan 2019-2023 by the MoEYS: The Basic Education Equivalency Programme (BEEP) providing an online-based learning opportunities to out-of-school youth to obtain a certificate equivalent to 9 years schooling, and the training modules Know About Business. 21,400 (51% women) students in grade 7 to 9 from 66 lower secondary schools attended entrepreneurship education. The MoEYS also adopted local life skills education as a core subject in the national curriculum. 32,700 (53% women) students in grade 7 and 9 from 83 lower secondary schools improved their life skills to address challenges in schools, at home, and in their communities. The project raised awareness of 10'000 youth job seekers and workers on youth rights and responsibilities at work. Coordination between the MoLVT and the MoEYS is increasing. However, there is a need to strengthen the focus towards decent and productive employment, and to scale up innovative interventions such as online-based alternative learning. Emerging demand for green and digital skills will have to be taken into account.

TARGET GROUPS AND PROJECT LOCATION

Young women and men in and out of school, with a focus on vulnerable youth such as school dropouts, young women and men in informal work, youth from rural areas, young low-skilled workers with low levels of basic education. The project covers 9 provinces: Siem Reap, Banteay Meanchey, Battambang, Kampong Thom, Kampong Cham, Kampong Speu, Kandal, Takeo and Phnom Penh.



Target provinces highlighted in blue colour