

CAMBODIA



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
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Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC

UN JOINT PROGRAMME ON YOUTH EMPLOYMENT



Young women exchanging their insights on marketing plan development at the entrepreneurship seminar for youth. Photo by UN

BACKGROUND

Cambodia is the most youthful country in South East Asia, with more than 50% of the population being below 25 years of age. The country needs to create decent and productive employment opportunities for 300,000 new entrants to the labour market every year, while ensuring that young people can access skills and quality education in an environment that respects their rights at work.

Current education and skills training programmes must become more relevant to the evolving labour market. Educational attainment is low for many young people, with only 56% of students completing primary education, and completion rates for lower secondary being as low as 26%. As this level is a precondition for continuing into formal general or vocational education, three quarters of young people risk to be locked out and need additional forms of training.

Young women find it harder than men to reach higher levels of education and join the labour force, and they are at risk of abuse and discrimination in the workplace. Young people

venture into entrepreneurship out of necessity and without adequate guidance or training, which perpetuates a cycle of informality and working poverty.

APPROACH

The Joint Programme collaborates and builds synergies with existing initiatives of five UN agencies: ILO, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNDP and UNV. It focuses on three areas:

1. The programme facilitates access to formal and informal technical and vocational training, including through workplace-based training and volunteering programmes. These skills are mainstreamed in secondary school curricula and TVET programmes. Innovative use of educational and entertaining media provides urban and rural youth, particularly young women in vulnerable employment, with the knowledge and confidence to identify alternative jobs and mobilize support. This fosters also better access to vocational counselling and career guidance.
2. The programme focuses on basic business skills and enterprise development training, both for in-school and out-of-school youth. The focus on in-school youth is on entrepreneurship training in lower secondary and higher levels, including vocational training. The work with out-of-school youth and young entrepreneurs consists of enterprise development support and community-based enterprise development.
3. The programme aims to decrease discrimination of young women and men at work and to foster understanding and respect of rights at work by both workers and employers. Additional training addresses young people's legal protection, with emphasis on the most vulnerable, including young migrants and domestic workers. The programme provides capacity building on literacy and life skills for young women working in factories, as well as capacity building targeted at line ministries, workers unions and the National Employment Agency.

PROJECT AT A GLANCE:

Project Duration

September 2017 to August 2019

Budget

Total Budget: USD 4,480,000,
Contribution SDC: USD 2,000,000

Implementing agencies:

ILO, UNDP, UNESCO,
UNICEF, UNV

Other partners

Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, Ministry of Tourism, National Employment Agency, CAMFEBA, trade unions and NGOs.

Imprint

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OVERALL GOAL AND EXPECTATIONS

The goal of the Joint Programme is that 'Young women and men increasingly obtain decent and productive employment opportunities' which translates into the following three outcomes:

Outcome 1: Young women and men access quality formal and non-formal education, including volunteerism to develop relevant technical and vocational skills. The outputs include:

- Strengthened system for certification of TVET institutions based on industry and ASEAN standards.
- Strengthened coordination and delivery of certified basic education and TVET programmes.
- Quality market and industry-driven skills programmes for priority sectors developed and available to youth.
- Partnerships established within priority industrial sectors to provide volunteer, apprenticeship and internship opportunities to young women.

Outcome 2: Young women and men, both in school and out of school, are equipped with adequate entrepreneurial and business skills to create and develop sustainable enterprises. The outputs include:

- Entrepreneurship education modules expanded to more secondary education institutions and TVET programmes.
- Entrepreneurship education/business training in place and available for out-of-school youth.
- Strengthened business development services.

Outcome 3: Young women and men benefit from a reduced risk of abuse and discrimination at work. The following outputs include:

- Government line ministries are equipped with enhanced knowledge on youth rights at work.
- Unemployed and vulnerably employed youth are better informed about their rights and employment prospects.
- Literacy programmes for working young women and men are delivered in factories.

private sector is assured through a partnership with the Cambodian Federation of Employers and Business Associations (CAMFEBA) and its associate and individual members.

The ultimate beneficiaries of this project are young women and men, especially the most vulnerable. The programme seeks to improve beneficiaries' skills and employability with the ultimate goal that they find decent jobs. Jobseekers, employers, training providers and other users of employment services across the country will benefit from the project. Policy makers will benefit by gaining increased capacity to develop wider policies aimed at reducing unemployment, bridging skills deficits and enhancing labour market efficiency.

The success of the project will not only be defined by the employability of the beneficiaries, but also by estimations on the number of jobs created and the share of trainees who have found a job as a result of the programme.



Vocational training at Mith Samlanh. Photo by UN

STRATEGIC FOCUS

All interventions work closely with the Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training and the Ministry of Education Youth and Sport as lead partners. The Ministry of Tourism, the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation and the National Employment Agency play important roles in reaching the different outcomes. Collaboration with the