

**annual project report 2011**

**United Nations Development Programme - Cambodia**

**Project: Strengthening Democracy Programme**

**Period: 01-01-2011 to 31-12-2011**

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| **Project ID & Title**: | Strengthening Democracy Program (SDP) |
| **Duration**: | 01-01-2011 to 31-12-2011 |
| **Total Budget:** | US$ |
| **Project Partners:** | Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Information, National Election Committee, Cambodian Political Parties with seats in parliament, Cambodian and International Civil Society Organizations |
| **Country Programme Outcome:** | National and sub-national institutions are more accountable and responsive to the needs and rights of all people living in Cambodia and increase participation in democratic decision making |

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# I. Executive summary

The 2011-2015 *Strengthening Democracy Programme* (SDP) was developed by UNDP in consultation with institutional partners such as the National Election Committee (NEC), the Ministry of the Interior (MoI), the Ministry of Information (MoInf), as well as stakeholders including civil society organizations (CSOs) and political parties with seats in the parliament. SDP builds upon existing local governance and democratic assets and practices by focusing on enhancing the long-term capacity of Cambodian citizens to participate more effectively and make better use of democratic institutions.

Through advocacy and focused initiatives with key state, societal and political institutions, SDP aims to build upon the Royal Government of Cambodia’s commitment to promote citizen engagement in governance and democracy by strengthening the citizenry’s ability to hold the state accountable, shape public debate, participate in politics and express their needs and opinions. SDP’s mandate lies in supporting vital democratic institutions, mechanisms and practices such as the parliament, commune councils, electoral processes as well as voter and civic education, and in strengthening intermediary democratic institutions such as civil society organizations, political parties, and the media.

The programme went through the official UNDP local programme appraisal committee (LPAC) process in quarter two. The approval of SDP’s programme document allowed for the termination of the initiation phase at the end of June. SDP proper began on July 1st, 2011. As of the end of the reporting period, resource mobilization remains SDP’s biggest challenge, directly affecting the programme’s ability to recruit both technical and support staff.

During 2011, a significant share of staff time was spent **developing the new project**, including defining and clarifying the annual workplan, developing relationships with programme partners, managing personnel turnover (several international staff members left Cambodia) and recruiting qualified staff. The recruitment of the National Programme Manager and of *Equity Weekly*’s Chief Editor faced several challenges and had yet not been finalized at the end of the reporting period. Nevertheless, both positions are expected to be filled in quarter one of 2012. The recruitment of a Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) is yet to be conducted; UNDP will consult with the Project Board whether an interim CTA should be appointed. The position of operations manager is yet to be recruited. During quarters three and four the programme was managed and implemented by two international UN Volunteers with support from two national administrative assistants. From July 2011, Equity Weekly continued to run under the editorial guidance of UNDP’s Public Information and Media Officer (who has served as Chief Editor a.i.) and supervision of the Programme Manager a.i.

The *Equity Weekly* Programme (equitycam.tv) became a tripartite partnership between UNDP, TVK and Oxfam America. *Equity Weekly* continued to produce and broadcast shows highlighting issues of political, social, economic and environmental importance to Cambodia. It remains the flagship of fair and balanced journalism in Cambodia; a 2011 survey revealed its wide acceptance among a wide spectrum of policy makers, parliamentarians and other democratic stakeholders, for whom it is a vital source of accurate and current information.

SDP continued to facilitate dialogue among political parties as well as between them, the NEC and other stakeholders. The Political Parties Technical Working Group on Voter Registration concluded its work in quarter two; its final report included both recommendations that were agreed to and underwritten by all parties (e.g. extending the validity of expired National ID cards and replacing Form 1018) as well as individual party recommendations, all of which were forwarded by UNDP to the NEC, MoI, CSOs and development partners. It is especially important to highlight that the new Certification of Identity that replaced the maligned Form 1018, by and large reflects recommendations and changes requested by opposition parties that were both supported by the ruling party and eventually implemented by the NEC.

Relations between SDP/UNDP and the NEC have gained a solid footing based on open and clear communications. Taking stock of the NEC’s openness and willingness to explore working in new areas, in 2011 SDP focused primarily on advocacy, particularly with regards to voter registration of disadvantaged groups such as people with disabilities, indigenous populations, ethnic minorities, homeless people and migrant workers. Other important openings and developments include conducting trainings for village chiefs and commune officials on political neutrality as well as deploying the voter registry online as way of adding greater transparency and building confidence in the voter registration process and the voter lists. SDP and the NEC are ready to work on these areas subject to the outcome of a Needs Assessment Mission from the UN Department of Political Affairs that visited Cambodia in November 2011 and subject to the availability of support from donors.

SDP has continued to advocate the importance of developing a modern central civil registry. The Ministry of the Interior has confirmed their interest in working with UNDP both in developing the civil registry and in obtaining technical legal support on the drafting of a National Identity Law. The programme’s ability to support the civil registry, which could vastly affect everyday Cambodians in a positive way, remains contingent on donor support.

The implementation of the youth multimedia civic education initiative remained on track throughout 2011; the BBC Media Action project team conducted formative research, developed its strategy, built its team, and tested and tuned its tools before entering the production and promotion phase. The campaign launches in early January 2012 and is on track against its workplan and budget. The shows will include a combination TV Drama and Magazine show, a call in radio show and a website as well as live events in the field. All of these entered the heavy production phase in quarter four 2011 and are on track for airing as scheduled. It is worth noting that in 2011 the *Really!* youth radio phone-in show was on air from April with 25 episodes covering civic education topics such as teamwork, self-expression and voting. It gave producers an opportunity to test key concepts and strategies ahead of the main campaign going on air.

SDP’s continued its engagement with the regional research programme on Indigenous Peoples’ access to media and communication for empowerment (C4E) to finalize the research initiated in 2010. Subsequent activities fostered the beginning of an effective network for communication between indigenous peoples across the country linked to media and communications. A consultation on Indigenous language radio and community media in Cambodia was held in collaboration with UNESCO. With the participation of the Ministry of Information (including the Minister himself), the Consultation proved to be a very useful format for sharing information about different models of indigenous language and community media in Cambodia with government officials.

SDP submitted a proposal to the UNDP HIV/AIDS Thematic Trust Fund to contribute to the Cambodia’s HIV/AIDS response through work with and support to the national Men Who Have Sex With Men (MSM) Network/ Bandanh Chaktomuk (BC). The Thematic Trust Fund approved the proposal and allocated US$75,000 for work in 2011 and 2012. The expected output is an *MSM self-sustained network that has the skills and knowledge to provide direct benefits to its constituencies, to meaningfully contribute to the national HIV response and to advocate for their rights.* Since quarter three, significant progress has been made in supporting capacity development for BC to fulfil its role as an effective community network for the MSM community. Activities have focused on consultation, assessment and planning for the provision of capacity building support to BC in 2012.

As noted earlier, financial limitations impeded SDP from recruiting technical and support staff. Both economic and personnel insufficiencies severely hampered the programme’s ability to carry out all its projected activities. While UNDP is in discussions with donors regarding support for SDP, in the very near term the programme can be expected to continue focusing on its least costly activities.

# II. Implementation progress

**PROGRESS TOWARDS PROJECT OUTPUTS**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| OUTPUT 1: ***Increase interaction and accountability of elected bodies, authorities to citizen through strengthened democratic processes at national and sub-national levels*** | | | | | |
| **Output Indicators** | | *Baseline (month/year)* | | *Target*  *(month/year)* | *Current status (month/year)* |
| * Increased parliament’s engagement with constituency, CSOs and Media | | 0 | | 2 | 0 |
| * Electoral systems and processes strengthened to ensure enfranchisement of citizens | | N/A | | N/A | N/A |
| * programme management support for approval of the programme document and implementation of the initiation plan | | N/A | | N/A | N/A |
| Progress towards Output 1 in 2011 was incomplete due to the lack of staff that resulted from limited financial resources. The late start of SDP proper (in July 2011) also affected the programme’s ability to work on this output.  The lack of a National Dialogue Officer prevented the programme from organizing MDG-centred fora between parliamentarians, commune councils and citizens. Support for the National Identity Law was delayed to allow MoI to attend to its own internal procedures. The Public Campaign for Voter Registration could not be implemented because as of the end of the reporting period SDP had not received clearance from UN headquarters to support electoral activities or to directly support the NEC. While a Needs Assessment Mission visited Cambodia in November 2011, at the time of the writing of this report UNDP Cambodia was yet to receive instructions on whether it can engage in electoral activities, or the parameters for such activities.  The Political Parties Technical Working Group on Voter Registration concluded its work in quarter two; its final report included both recommendations that were agreed to and underwritten by all parties (e.g. extending the validity of expired National ID cards and replacing Form 1018) as well as individual party recommendations, all of which were forwarded by UNDP to the NEC, MoI, CSOs and development partners. It is especially important to highlight that the new Certification of Identity that replaced the maligned Form 1018, by and large reflects recommendations and changes requested by opposition parties that were both supported by the ruling party and eventually implemented by the NEC. | | | | | |
| **Source of funds used: TRAC** | | | | | |
| Delivery *exceeds* plan | **Delivery *in line with* plan** | | Delivery *below* plan | | |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| OUTPUT 2: ***Strengthened civil society, media and political parties as conduits for citizens’ participation*** | | | | |
| Output Indicators | *Baseline (month/year)* | *Target*  *(month/year)* | | *Current status (month/year)* |
| 1. Empowered CSOs working in the area of democratic governance through building of their capacities and enhancing their role in democratic space | None | Support MSM network improve its internal governance | | Conducted need assessment of and develop capacity development strategy for MSM network to improve its internal governance |
| 1. Deliver youth oriented non-formal civic education by establishing media platform, programmes, and community outreach activities | KAP study | Broadcast radio show on issues of youth civic engagement | | 25 “Really!” radio shows produced and aired |
| 1. Develop approaches to enfranchising and empowering indigenous and marginalized groups through civil society organizations | Regional research on Indigenous people | Develop framework for effective grants mechanism | | National consultation meeting held |
| 1. Political parties’ knowledge and capacities strengthened to engage with and address development issues at a national and sub-national level | 9 HLM | 9HLM | | 9 high level meetings held |
| 1. Enabling environment for the media and CSOs to act as conduits for participation, voice of people and governance accountability | 52 shows broadcast | 52 shows broadcast | | 50 shows aired (46 new shows and 4 repeats) |
| **1. Empowered CSOs working in the area of democratic governance through building of their capacities and enhancing their role in democratic space**  *Need assessment and Capacity Development Strategy of MSM network*  In Quarter 2 SDP submitted a proposal to the UNDP HIV/AIDS Thematic Trust Fund to work on providing support to National MSM Network/ Bandanh Chaktomuk (BC) to contribute to the national HIV/AIDS response. The proposal was accepted and $75,000 was allocated for work in 2011 and 2012. The expected output is an *MSM self-sustained network that has the skills and knowledge to provide direct benefits to its constituencies, to meaningfully contribute to the national HIV response and to advocate for their rights.*  Since Quarter 3, significant progress has been made in supporting capacity development for BC to fulfil its role as an effective community network for the MSM community. Activities have focused on consultation, assessment and planning for the provision of capacity building support to BC in 2012. While delivery has fallen short of the planned 40 per cent, preparations have been made for the implementation of strategic capacity development for the network beginning in early 2012. Activities in 2011 have included:  *Formation of Core Group for BC Strengthening*  Building on previous support to BC, UNAIDS has taken the initiative to form a Core Group for BC Strengthening with other key stakeholder including with other key support organisations including UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCO, FHI 360 and KHANA. Beginning in 2012, the group will be chaired by the Secretary General of the National AIDS Authority, a reflection of NAA’s support to the process and to UNDP’s activities to support the strengthening of BC. Following the completion of the BC capacity assessment and development of the action plan, the Core Group will play an important role in coordinating support and providing strategic advice to the BC Executive Committee, and advising UNDP on how best to support the network in line with its objectives.  *Consultancy for conducting Capacity Assessment and Develop Action Plan for BC Strengthening*  In November, UNDP engaged a consultant to conduct a capacity assessment of BC and to develop an action plan for its development as a community network. The BC assessment will function as a pre-test for the tool, which can then be used to assess and measure development of other community network for Most at Risk Populations (MARPs). The NAA has commended the development of the tool, which comprises a series of standards and indicators, as a way to accurately gauge the effectiveness of community networks and to develop strategic interventions for their strengthening. The final report, capacity assessment and action plan with be delivered on 3rd February 2012.  *National consultation of MSM and Transgender community network with over 100 participants from around Cambodia.*  On 20 December 2011, UNDP supported a National Consultation on Community Networks of MSM and Transgender Persons held in Phnom Penh. There were over 100 participants including BC’s Executive Committee, BC staff and members, MSM and Transgender focal points in seven provinces, other members of the MSM community and representatives of the Core Group for Strengthening BC and other NGOs active in working with the MSM and TG community. The event was an opportunity to inform the BC membership and wider MSM and TG community about BC and the on-going reform process. Participants also had the opportunity to discuss issues of concern to the community and ways to participate more actively in the network and to contribute to its strengthening. Presentations from Core Group Members and other NGOs highlighted success stories and on-going challenges in supporting the MSM and TG community, particularly in achieving targets for the national HIV/AIDS response. The event demonstrated that there are very active and empowered members of the community who are willing and able to play a leadership role in strengthening the MSM and TG community, potentially through BC. This is reason to be optimistic for the development of the network, providing support can be effectively coordinated and targeted.  **2. Deliver youth oriented non-formal civic education by establishing media platform, programmes, and community outreach activities**  *Implement multimedia youth civic education initiative with BBC Media Action –concept development, pretesting and piloting.*  The implementation of the youth multimedia civic education initiative remained on track throughout 2011 with many positive developments ahead of the public launch scheduled for January 2012. The initiative has continued to be funded by a combination of core funds and DGTTF funds. A number of donors have expressed interest though none have yet committed.  In 2011 the BBC Media Action project team conducted formative research, develop its strategy, built its team, and tested and tuned its tools before entering the production and promotion phase. The campaign launches in early January 2012 and is on track against its workplan and budget. The programmes will include a combination TV drama and magazine show, a call in radio programme and a website as well as live events in the field. All of these entered the heavy production phase in quarter four 2011 and are on track for airing as scheduled.  User testing in April-June involved the production of ten “Bright spot” interviews with active, interesting young people who participate positively in civic life in Cambodia. These interviews were tested in focus groups with a representative cross section of Cambodian youth. UNDP staff attended several of these focus groups. The results were used for content and concept development. The phase of user testing and concept development also led to the choice of a brand name for the campaign – ‘Loy9’ – a slang phrase used by young people in Cambodia. The word ‘loy’ can be translated into English as something a bit like ‘pretty’ or ‘successful’ or ‘cool’. The number ‘9’ is used in Khmer as a suffix to denote something having been done very well. ‘Loy9’ is a combination of these two concepts and is used when something has been really well done, or looks great. It is a name with no negative political or historical implications.  From 15 January 2012, the TV show will air at 8pm on Sunday evenings on CTN, and repeat at 4:30pm on Tuesday afternoons on MYTV (CTN’s youth entertainment channel), for seventeen weekly episodes. The radio show will go out live on FM103 and at least twelve of its regional partner stations at midday on Mondays from the 16th of January 2012 all the way to the 1st of July 2013. In 2011, the *Really!* youth radio phone-in show was on air from April with 25 episodes covering civic education topics such as teamwork, self-expression and voting. It gave producers an opportunity to test key concepts and strategies ahead of the main campaign going on air.  A midline survey is being conducted between December 2011 and January 2012, for SDP by the Centre for Advanced Studies to gather data that will provide evidence of the change that Loy9 produces. It will in fact function more as a baseline study as it is more targeted and refined based on the extensive findings of the formative KAP study conducted in 2010. It is also being conducted in the weeks immediately prior to the commencement of the campaign, allowing for accurate measurement of the impact. The project Logframe has been revised on the basis of the year’s strategic discussions and research findings, and this was the key document during the construction of the questionnaire for the research.  In quarter three, an SDP intern produced a scoping report on developing the Community Outreach Component of the campaign. It looked at developing partnerships with various NGOs already working with youth and civic participation that are well equipped for contributing the greater dissemination of campaign outputs and messages. A National UNV Youth and Civil Society Liaison Officer was subsequently recruited. The report and recruitment have directly led to the development of outreach activities by BBC Media Action staff and plans have been made for further expanding these in the future should more funds become available. The community outreach component is based on the understanding that for media message to have their greatest impact, they need to be accompanied by face-to-face discussions and events at the local level. Working with NGO partners with grassroots networks offers the most cost effective and potentially impactful approach.  **3. Develop approaches to enfranchising and empowering indigenous and marginalized groups through civil society organizations**  *Workshop for DPs, civil society and other stakeholders on findings of indigenous people’s Communication for Empowerment research*  In the first part of 2011, the SDP finalized the Indigenous Peoples' Communication for Empowerment research from 2010. This was followed in May by a workshop, partially supported by UNDP, to disseminate the research findings and to bring over 100 indigenous representatives together to discuss where to take the findings and how to build on the links that have been forged. The meeting was successful in sensitizing many indigenous participants from around the country about the similar challenges they face in access and producing relevant media. On the final day of the workshop, many development partners attended to see various presentations on the outcomes of the research and the workshop. One of the biggest successes was the beginning of an effective network for communication between indigenous peoples across the country linked to media and communications.  *Develop Indigenous People’s Communication for Empowerment NGO administered fund for community media*  The development of the fund has been delayed due to an overall lack of resources. However, SDP has remained in engaged with relevant stakeholders and in December organized a workshop in Phnom Penh and follow up mission to Ratanakiri to facilitate dialogue on the development of indigenous language media.  The Consultation on Indigenous Language radio and Community Media in Cambodia was held in collaboration with UNESCO in Phnom Penh in the fourth quarter. It featured participation from the Ministry of Information (including the Minister himself), representatives of the Provincial departments of information from Ratanakiri, Mondulkiri, Kratie and Stung Treng, a delegation from UNDP Laos and the Government of Laos linked to indigenous language radio station projects, representatives from UNDP APRC and Asia Indigenous People’s Pact and representatives from numerous local CSOs. The Consultation provided a forum to share with government officials about different models of indigenous language and community media in Cambodia.    The Consultation was followed up by a mission to Ratanakiri to facilitate knowledge exchange between international guests from UNDP Laos, Government of Laos and Asia Indigenous People’s Pact (AIPP) with indigenous and community media stakeholders in Ratanakiri including the UNESCO supported Indigenous language radio programme on Ratanakiri Provincial radio, Promoting Indigenous Voices and other relevant CSOs. Representatives from Laos were able to share their valuable experience with indigenous community representatives and NGOs working on a range of issues. They were also able to visit to provincial Department of Information radio stations in two provinces. The trip was also an excellent opportunity to exchange with different groups about the UNESCO supported programme in Ratanakiri. The visit to O Yadoav allowed UNESCO representatives to hear feedback directly from the community about the broadcast times, content covered and community involvement. Overall the mission was a successful first step in better coordinating activities around indigenous language and community media.  **4. Political parties**  Following up on consultations held in 2010 with the five political parties with representation in parliament on their activities, structures, and plans for promoting the political participation of women, SDP continued to advocate for a minimum target of 25% women candidates in the 2012 commune elections and in the 2013 national elections. At the end of the reporting period, due to lack of resources for training and capacity building, one political party indicated they had lowered their target for the commune elections from 30% to 15% women candidates.  In 2011 SDP continued to facilitate dialogue, both at the political and technical levels, among political parties and between them and the NEC and MoI. The political parties technical working group on voter registration (PPTWG) submitted recommendations to NEC and MoI on issues such as the validity of the national ID card, replacing Form 1018, the duration of the voter registration period, registration of migrant workers and Cambodians living abroad, among others. In 2011 reforms were enacted that extended expired and expiring ID cards until 31 December 2013, ensuring the right to vote of at least three million Cambodians is not jeopardized. A new Identification Certification that largely reflects the recommendations of opposition parties replaced the controversial Form 1018.  The High Level Meeting between political parties with NEC and other stakeholders continued to provide a useful venue for UNDP to contribute to the creation of a political culture based on dialogue. In 2011, the HLM featured two international guest speakers. One of them spoke about the transition from authoritarianism to democracy in Argentina, and the processes and actions that were needed to strengthen other institutions that play a key role in generating trust in the political system and its rules for managing diverse and often competing political interests. The second visitor spoke about women’s political participation and empowerment in the Philippines; her presentation made emphasis on the actions taken by political parties, but also on the kinds of initiatives that succeeded and failed. Both guest speakers also had sessions with civil society organizations and with youth organizations; they emphasized the importance of CSOs and Youth in pushing for greater democracy and raising awareness about the nature of democracy as a political system in which citizens are the source of authority. These two activities were very highly rated by all participants. SDP will continue to bring outside speakers since this approach often provides an opportunity to address difficult issues by anchoring the discussion around the themes brought up by the guest speaker.  **5. Enabling environment for the media and CSOs to act as conduits for participation, voice of people and governance accountability.**  **Equity Weekly**  *Equity Weekly* continued to cover important topics such as the dam construction in Koh Kong, Child labour in agriculture, mental health, migration, the Boeung Kak lake conflict, Prey Long forest development, malaria, the drop in funding for HIV/AIDS programmes and the Xayabury Dam in Laos. In 2011, 50 shows were broadcast, including 4 shows that, due to a halt in production by TVK staff during April and May, consisted primarily of previously aired stories. Despite the lack of a full time Chief Editor since June 2011, *Equity Weekly* maintained its expected level of high journalistic standards and MoInf remained very supportive of the programme and of the ethics behind it.  It is important to note that *Equity Weekly* remains the only media outlet where all political parties that have seats in parliament receive news coverage in a balanced and fair way. The show continues to grab the attention of policy makers. For example, one “Teaser” about unsafe electric utility posts and low hanging utility posts received a response from MIME in time for the following show’s broadcast. While it is impossible to know with certainty how influential the show is, it is certain that *Equity Weekly* tackles the current issues of the day and that, as a QAsia survey revealed, decision makers pay close attention to the show.  In January 2011, UNDP decided to stop covering certain production costs of *Equity Weekly* due to a shortage of funds. Funding negotiations with Oxfam America took place and an agreement was finalized during quarter two of 2011. As part of the tripartite agreement between TVK, UNDP and Oxfam America, *Equity Weekly* broadcast 15 Oxfam-funded programmes about the impact of the extractive industries on social groups and environment in Cambodia. The partnership with Oxfam America not only brings additional resources to the programme, but also serves to further enhance and reinforce *Equity Weekly*’s commitment to the principles of fair and balanced journalism.  In June 2011, TVK requested more repeat broadcasts of *Equity Weekly*. The revised broadcast schedule is: Sundays, 8:00pm; Mondays, 1:00 pm; Wednesdays, 1:00 am and 3:30pm; and Fridays, 3:00 pm. The Friday programme consists of one or two past features edited into a 20-minute package. Many programmes are continuing to receive positive feedback and generate discussion on the programme’s social media interface on Facebook.  The Chief Editor of Equity Weekly left UNDP at the end of June following the completion of his contract. Since then the project has been under the editorial guidance of UNDP’s Public Information and Media Officer with oversight by the Programme Manager a.i. As of the end of the reporting period, recruitment of an International UN Volunteer with significant experience to take over the role of Chief Editor was being finalized; the new editor is expected to commence his work in quarter one 2012. | | | | |
|  | | | | |
| Delivery *exceeds* plan | **Delivery *in line with* plan** | | Delivery *below* plan | |

**PROGRESS TOWARDS COUNTRY PROGRAMME (CPAP) OUTPUT**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| OUTPUT:   * 1. Increased interaction and accountability of elected bodies, authorities to citizens through strengthened democratic processes at national and sub-national level | | | | |
| **Output Indicators** | *Baseline (month/year)* | *Target*  *(month/year)* | *Current status (month/year)* | |
| * No. of MDG-centred forums organized to facilitate interaction between parliamentarians, commune councillors and citizens | None | 2 MDG-centred forums organized to facilitate interaction between parliamentarians, commune councillors and citizens to support MDG acceleration agenda | December 2011  To be implemented from 2012 |
| * Draft legal framework on establishment of central civil registry | None | Legal framework on establishment of Central Civil Registry drafted | Postponed. MoI is yet to officially request support from UNDP |
| Because much of 2011 was dedicated to finalizing and approving the programme document as well as developing the new programme, including defining and clarifying the annual workplan and developing relationships with programme partners, organizing MDG-centred fora between parliamentarians, commune councillors and citizens was postponed until after the 2012 commune elections. This was also done to protect UNDP from the risks inherent in conducting these fora very close to the elections. Nevertheless, SDP used the High Level Meeting between political parties, which does not have a public profile, to discuss women’s political participation and participation. The Deputy Speaker of the House of the Representatives was invited as a guest speaker; her presentation served as a neutral anchor on which to base the discussion among political parties.  In 2011 SDP continued to advocate the importance of developing a modern central civil registry. The Ministry of the Interior has confirmed their interest in obtaining technical and legal support from UNDP in developing the civil registry. As of the end of the reporting period, MoI had not yet officially requested support from UNDP for any aspect related to the civil registry. | | | | |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| OUTPUT:   * 1. Strengthened civil society, media and political parties as conduits for citizens’ participation in democratic processes and decision making | | | | |
| **Output Indicators** | *Baseline (month/year)* | *Target*  *(month/year)* | *Current status (month/year)* | |
| * N. of EW shows broadcasted by TVK | A new MoU for the production of equity weekly shows in 2011 signed by UNDP and TVK | 50 Equity Weekly shows broadcasted by TVK | Dec 2011  50 shows broadcast |
| * Commencement of TV and radio production and N.of radio shows broadcast | Formative and baseline KAP research conducted and Youth Multimedia Civic Education Programme developed | TV and radio production commenced and 25 radio shows broadcast | Dec 2011  25 *Really!* radio shows aired  TV production commenced on time |
| * N. of high level political parties dialogues on key political and MDG related issues | Dialogues between political parties initiated | Between 7 and 10 high level political parties meetings around key political and MDG related issues organised | Dec 2011  9 HLM organized |
| * N. of political parties developed gender action plan to increase women's political participation in commune council elections | A series of training workshop to build capacity women's wing from 5 political parties organized | Between 2 and 5 political parties developed gender action plan to increase women's political participation in commune council elections | 2 political parties have plans to increase women’s participation in commune council elections |
| Equity Weekly continued to provide a media platform for access to information and sharing of information to the public, and to provide a platform for political parties to articulate policies on issues of concern to the public.  The implementation of the youth multimedia civic education initiative remained on track throughout 2011; the BBC Media Action project team conducted formative research, developed its strategy, built its team, and tested and tuned its tools before entering the production and promotion phase. The *Really!* youth radio phone-in show was on air from April with 25 episodes covering civic education topics such as teamwork, self-expression and voting. It gave producers an opportunity to test key concepts and strategies ahead of the main campaign going on air. The campaign launches in early January 2012 and is on track against its workplan and budget. The shows will include a combination TV Drama and Magazine show, a call in radio show and a website as well as live events in the field. All of these entered the heavy production phase in quarter four 2011 and are on track for airing as scheduled.  The continuous work of the High Level Meeting between political parties, NEC and MoI remains a valuable platform where a modicum of constructive dialogue, facilitated by UNDP, can take place. Progress towards project outputs related to political parties will remain highly contingent upon the political will of local partners. Nevertheless, the recent amendment of Cambodia’s electoral laws, increasing the voter registration period from 15 to 30 days and authorizing MoI to extend the validity of expired national identity cards until 31 December 2013, illustrate the importance of a prudent engagement in areas that, while sensitive, are crucial to strengthening democracy in Cambodia and to safeguarding the franchise of all Cambodian citizens.  SDP continued to advocate with political parties for the development and adoption of gender strategy for strengthening the capacity and voices of women’s wings and increasing the number of female elected candidates in the 2012 and 2013 elections. Two political parties have developed gender strategies and in particular set targets of 30% and 15% respectively to increase number of women elected in the 2012 commune council election. SDP continues to advocate with all parties on the importance of strengthening the women’s wings and to encourage all of them to set minimum targets for women candidates. This is an area where donor support could make a big difference, since some of the smaller parties often argue the lack of resources prevents them from training women who can then run for office. | | | | |

**PROGRESS TOWARDS COUNTRY PROGRAMME (CPAP) OUTCOME**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| OUTCOME: Effective mechanisms for dialogue, representation and participation in democratic decision making established and strengthened | | | |
| **Outcome Indicators** | *Baseline (month/year)* | *Target*  *(month/year)* | *Current status (month/year)* |
| * Increased the interaction and accountability of elected bodies to citizen's demands | None | i) 5% of citizens' concerns recorded during public forum that are addressed by elected bodies at national and sub-national level | Dec 2011  Fora postponed until after the commune elections |
| * N. of political parties adopt strategy to increase women's elected candidates for the commune council elections in 2012 | None | ii) at least 2 political parties adopted strategy to increase women's elected candidates for the commune council elections in 2012 | Dec 2011  Two parties have made specific commitments on the number of women candidates they will present |
| SDP postponed organizing MDG-centred fora between parliamentarians, commune councillors and citizens until after the 2012 commune elections. This was also done to protect UNDP from the risks inherent in conducting these fora very close to the elections.  SDP continued to advocate with political parties for the development and adoption of gender strategy for strengthening the capacity and voices of women’s wing and increasing the number of female candidates elected in the 2012 and 2013 elections. Two political parties have developed a gender strategies and in particular set targets of 30% and 15% respectively to increase the number of women elected in the 2012 commune council election. SDP continues to advocate with all parties on the importance of strengthening the women’s wings and to encourage all of them to set minimum targets for women candidates. This is an area where donor support could make a big difference, since some of the smaller parties often argue the lack of resources prevents them from training women who can then run for office.  SDP’s credibility as a fair and impartial actor enabled it to facilitate the political dialogue that led to electoral reforms: extension of the validity of the national ID cards, the extension of the voter registration period, as well as the introduction of an improved temporary ID form has several new safeguards as recommended by several stakeholders. | | | |

# Capacity Development

Most SDP staff received UNDP trainings, particularly through the online learning system. *Equity Weekly* continued to be a training ground for fair and balanced journalism.

At Equity Weekly, a large amount of time was devoted to providing daily support to journalists, editors and cameramen. This on-the-job training provided a unique opportunity for the staff of TVK to be able to practice and experience fair and balanced reporting techniques. During the second half of 2011, further enhancing the script writing, research and analytical skills among all team members was not possible due to the lack of a full time Chief Editor.

The partnership with the BBC Media Action led to the capacity development of over twenty young Cambodian media professionals including scriptwriters, TV and radio producers and editors, actors and other technical media staff. As specified by UNDP in the ToR for the contract, the media team is primarily young. During 2011, BBC Media Action continually provided high quality training to its young Cambodian staff from highly experienced international and national media practitioners, to prepare them for roles in producing youth campaign outputs. The organization has a history of supplying the media industry in Cambodia with some of its best-trained journalists.

# Gender

# SDP continued to advocate with political parties for the development and adoption of gender strategy for strengthening the capacity and voices of women’s wings and increasing the number of female candidates elected in the 2012 and 2013 elections. Two political parties have developed gender strategies and in particular set targets of 30% and 15% respectively to increase the number of women elected in the 2012 commune council election. SDP continues to advocate with all parties on the importance of strengthening the women’s wings and to encourage all of them to set minimum targets for women candidates.

The further development and implementation of the gender component of the Programme was not possible due to lack of human and financial resources.

Within SDP, unequal representation of men and women remained. This was partly a legacy inherited from the previous project, the 2006 - 2010 Strengthening Democracy and Electoral Processes (SDEP) project, whose staff benefited from lateral movement at the initiation phase of SDP. By the second half of 2011, the project consisted of two male international UNVs and two support staff, one male and one female. Lack of resources prevented further recruitment of staff.

Five women are part of Equity Weekly production: the National Production Manager, two journalists (out of 4), one editor (out of 4) and one interpreter. Despite this imbalance, on air the show maintains gender balance with 2 out of 4 journalists and 1 out of 2 hosts being women. *Equity Weekly* show is anchored on a weekly basis by a female host: Noun Thouk. She is one of the most credible and recognised hosts in the Cambodian media today.

# Lessons learned

The delay in the approval of the SDP has delayed timely implementation of activities in the initiation phase. This has affected the level at which the project can commit with regards to progress towards outputs.

A fresh start in relations with the NEC allowed SDP to explore very important openings in areas where it can work with the NEC. As detailed throughout the discussions above, the NEC is very willing to work on issues pertaining to migrant workers, homeless people, indigenous populations, ethnic minorities and people with disabilities. The NEC has **explicitly expressed** this willingness at the High Level Meeting with political parties. An engagement that is respectful of the NEC’s domain of action has provided other important openings. Subject to the outcome of the Needs Assessment Mission that visited Cambodia in November 2011, SDP will work with the NEC on deploying the voter registry and voter lists online, conducting neutrality trainings for village chiefs and commune councillors, as well as on the piloting of a civic education centre.

Despite the challenges of running Equity Weekly without a full time Chief Editor, the show has maintained its quality. Nevertheless, the lack of the Chief Editor occasionally opened the door for pressure on the staff when covering sensitive issues since the information will be seen at the highest levels. This can be intimidating and pushes the Equity Weekly staff to be more careful about the information they gather and how they present their stories. In addition, with the help of UNDP’s Public Information and Media Officer, who has been serving as Chief Editor a.i., efforts have been made that TVK’s internal complaints and criticisms do not lead to individual self-censorship. The project management has worked to ensure the MoInf would be supportive and deal such threats to independence. It must be noted that TVK’s Director General continues to be extremely supportive of SDP’s commitment to promote transparency at all levels.

# III. Project implementation challenges

Project Risk 1:

The UNDP-TVK partnership faced some challenges in 2011. There was a cut in funding of production costs that UNDP communicated early in the year to senior management of MoInfo and TVK. However, this was not explained to TVK staff until early April 2011. The response from TVK staff led to the cessation of production for 2 weeks, with programmes not going to air during that time. The issue was resolved by on-going negotiations with Oxfam America to take over funding of production costs. A formal agreement between MoInfo/TVK and Oxfam America was finalized by the end of quarter two.

## Updated project issues and actions

Project Issue 1:

The delayed approval of SDP Program document created many difficulties fundraising for the project, which in turn affected the ability of the project to recruit staff. Both financial circumstances and the lack of staff made difficult for the project to deliver on its long-term outputs.

Action taken :

After the initiation of SDP proper in July 2011, UNDP senior management has striven to raise funds for the project. The global financial crisis and the fact that some development partners were in the process of developing their priorities in Cambodia made fund-raising a challenge. Due to these circumstances, the programme prioritized its least costly activities as well as those whose continuation is vital, such as Equity Weekly and the Youth initiative, due to their role as democratic spaces.

Project Issue 2:

Recruiting qualified staff remained a challenge throughout 2011, particularly as result of insufficient funds. The recruitment of the National Programme Manager and of *Equity Weekly*’s Chief Editor had yet not been finalized at the end of the reporting period. Nevertheless, both positions are expected to be filled in quarter one of 2012. The recruitment of a Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) and the operations manager are yet to be conducted. The financial constraints on SDP’s ability to recruit other key positions (i.e. specialists meant to carry out substantive or technical work) slowed the implementation of the programme and the development of certain activities.

Action taken:

Concerted efforts were made to expedite the recruitment processes of SDP’s National Programme Manager and Equity Weekly’s Chief Editor. In the interim, two international UN Volunteers have taken on the roles of Acting Programme Manager and Acting Operations Manager. Equity Weekly’s Production Manager and Assistant Production Manager have handled the basic day-to-day running of the show; editorial guidance has been provided by UNDP’s Public Information and Media Officer, who has served as Acting Chief Editor, with supervisory support from the Programme Manager a.i.

Project Issue 3:

The Youth Multimedia civic education television programme’s series one was scheduled to conclude during the second week of the official campaign period for the Commune Council Elections. SDP determined that to ensure better programmatic coherence it would be prudent to have the TV series conclude before the electoral campaign period to ensure a clear differentiation between Loy9 and the public service announcements that will begin airing in March 2012.

Action taken

Based on mutual agreement between UNDP and BBC Media Action, the first date of airing of media programmes was moved forward from 31st January to 16th January 2012. This will allow Series One of the television programme to conclude before the official campaign period for Commune Council Elections begins. BBC Media Action also agreed to deliver the preceding deliverable several weeks earlier. These changes entailed shifts in payment schedules captured in an amendment to the contract with BBC Media Action.

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# IV. Financial status and utilization

**Table 1: Overall contributions[01 January 2011 – 31 December 2015]**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **DONOR** | **CONTRIBUTIONS** | | **Transfer from SDEP project**  **(US$)** | **RECEIVED FUND BALANCE** |
| **Committed** | **Received**  **(Equivalent in US$)** |
| UNDP-TRAC | USD$1,376,330.67 | USD$1,376,330.67 |  | USD$1,376,330.67 |
| DGTTF | USD$250,000.00 | USD$250,000.00 |  | USD$250,000.00 |
| Oxfam America |  |  | USD$27,633.96 | USD$27,633.96 |
| HIV/AIDS Thematic TF | USD$75,000.00 | USD$75,000.00 |  | USD$75,000.00 |
| Total | | | | USD$1,728,964.63 |

**Table 2: Cumulative Expenditure by Activities**

[1 Jan – 31 December 2011]

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Activities - Description** | **Budget  2011**  **(revised)** | **Disbursement year 2011**  **(USD)** | **Balance**  **(USD)** | **Delivery rate (%)** |
| **Activity 1**:  Deliverable 1: Increased parliament’s engagement with constituency, CSOs and Media | 25,000.00 | 4,811.14 | 20,188.86 | 19.24% |
| **Activity 2.5**:  Deliverable 2: Electoral systems and processes strengthened to ensure enfranchisement of citizens | 3,000.00 | 1,665.95 | 1,334.05 | 55.53% |
| **Activity 3.1**:  Deliverable 3: Empowered CSOs working in the area of democratic governance through building of their capacities and enhancing their role in democratic space | 33,000.00 | 11,253.39 | 21,746.61 | 34.10% |
| **Activity 4.1**:  Deliverable 4: Deliver youth oriented non-formal civic education by establishing media platform, programmes, and community outreach activities | 885,864.63 | 895,718.61 | -9,853.98 | 101.11% |
| **Activity 5**:  Deliverable 5: Support mechanisms for women’s enhanced participation in decision making at the national and sub-national level | 20,000.00 | 0 | 20,000.00 | 0 |
| **Activity 6**:  Deliverable 6: Develop approaches to enfranchising and empowering indigenous and marginalized groups through civil society organizations | 10,500.00 | 10,502.02 | -2.02 | 100% |
| **Activity 7**:  Deliverable 7: Political parties’ knowledge and capacities strengthened to engage with and address development issues at a national and sub-national level | 71,000.00 | 40,016.18 | 30,983.82 | 56.36% |
| **Activity 8**:  Deliverable 8: Providing media platform for enhancing information flow and public dialogs on issues of concern to citizens and policymakers | 244,966.04 | 232,262.33 | 12,703.71 | 94.81% |
| **Activity 8.1**:  Deliverable 8: Providing media platform for enhancing information flow and public dialogs on issues of concern to citizens and policymakers | 27,633.96 | 27,633.96 | 0 | 100% |
| **Activity 9**:  Deliverable 9 : Advocacy and policy/legal support provided for development of improved national enabling framework for access to information | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Activity 10**:  Deliverable 10. Programme Management and operation | 363,000.00 | 314,997.34 | 48.002.66 | 86.77% |
| **Total** | **1,683,964.63** | **1,538,860.92** | **145,103.71** | **91.38%** |

**Table 3: Funding balance by donor [01Jan to 31December 2015]**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **DONORS** | **CONTRIBUTION** | **EXPENDITURE** | **BALANCE** | **Delivery rate** |
| UNDP-TRAC | USD$1,376,330.67 | USD$1,249,973.57 | USD$126,357.10 | 90.82% |
| DGTTF | USD$250,000.00 | USD$250,000.00 | 0 | 100% |
| Oxfam America | USD$27,633.96 | USD$27,633.96 | 0 | 100% |
| HIV/AIDS Thematic TF | USD$75,000.00 | USD$11,253.39 | USD$63,746.61 | 15% |
| **Total** | **USD$1,728,964.63** | **USD$1,538,860.92** | **USD$190,103.71** | **89%** |