

Newsletter from the Ministry of Planning, Royal Government of Cambodia under ADB TA 8179
(Package-C)

Gender, Monitoring and Evaluation, and Mainstreaming at Sub National Levels

This edition of the newsletter covers key achievements and success stories that are accomplished during the implementation of ADB TA 8179 Package-C focusing on Monitoring and Evaluation component. While the achievements are not limited to the following but also include:

Aligning Climate Change issues to the Cambodian National Monitoring Framework:

The Cambodian climate change monitoring and evaluation framework is the focus of attention for the Package C team working closely with the Ministry of Planning (General Department of Planning and National Institute of Statistics). Started in late 2016, the technical assistance mission mapped out the national data collection mechanisms and actors to assess the monitoring of action plans and program activities and to draw recommendations on the need for new indicators that could be used to track large climate funds and to enhance the monitoring of climate change in national systems.

On all aspects specific to climate change, the sector CCCSP and the CCAPs, coordinated by the NCSD/ CCD brings an overarching guidance and is the main entry point for the work of the SPCR team in MoP. The SPCR/CIF monitoring framework and the national TAMD ME framework are closely related and share a number of core indicators, along with a large set of scoring indicators, helping to ease alignment of climate ME reporting. This makes it possible to synthesize a system for data collection and analysis that builds on common data sets and evaluation needs at sector, national and international level.

With its strategic mandate to aggregate data from all national bodies, the Ministry of Planning NIS is another lead actor in this project, providing the project access to all relevant national statistics. Technically, the NIS also helps to clarify the climate change monitoring mapping requirements, and pin-points key data sources for the relevant information needs. This challenging task involves the analysis and aggregation of multi-level and multi-dimensional climate change indicators.



A new Platform to support decision makers on climate change investments:

In 2017, the team launched a new online platform using the existing CAMINFO ME system used by the NIS, seen as a relevant and existing reporting instrument to the international community. The platform brings added value with its unique portfolio of data of information on climate change, covering meteorological data, disaster data, and a cross sector adaptation data. The new database and its online platform is a living resource subject to further modification and changes with an aim to be a functional online tool, and to offer data aggregation and visualization tools to facilitate the tracking and decision making processes related to climate change actions and investments in Cambodia.

Among the sources of data for example are selected elements from the Commune Database, key data from the National census surveys, ID poor database, and a rich amount of data from each of the line ministries involved such as the MAFF's Agri-stat, and AMIS, MoWRAM's HYMOS and HYMET data bases, MRD and MWPT and also key disaster data from the NCDM. To complete the picture, the NCDMS (MoInterior) also has the DMK providing process and performance indicators but also a potential data collection mechanism.



Enhancing the Quality and scope of Climate change data sets and indicators:

In 2018, the team aims to push the agenda by improving the range, the relevance and the quality of climate indicators with their related data sets. During this period, the online platform will gradually be populated with data and it is expected to be fully operational by the end of the year.



Following the principles of alignment, the SPCR Package-C is drawing from the large range of existing monitoring systems and data sets – rather than re-creating new ones. With existing data collection systems already in place, the Package C team can select and draw information directly from a comprehensive range of national data indicators and data sets that are already ‘plugged’ into the CAMINFO reporting system. As a prelude to this work, the team faces important hurdles, such as the identification and prioritization of

Building on opportunities and fine-tuning indicators:

turn-key data sets and through the revision and improvement of existing or new indicators. Initial research suggests that a number of data sources may be used to rapidly enhance relevant indicators and to develop new indicators. There are already numerous foreseen opportunities, thanks to the important coordination role performed by the NCSD and climate change department over the last decades. A large number of ministries that aligned in the CCCSP have produced large numbers of potential indicators in their action plans. This offers avenues with the TAMD twin track approach – to align with international ME frameworks such as the SPCR and CIF/GCF with the core institutional indicators of track 1 and - to further further focus in the large list of potential results indicators (track 2).

Building on these opportunities, last December, several Ministries, namely MRD, MOE, MPWT, MOWRAM and MAFF (in process) submitted adaptation indicators for integration into NSDP 2019-23 following a letter of request from MOP minister. The MoP team is now working with them to screen the indicators that have a merit for integration based on clear definitions, baselines, available data and source of data. A field visit conducted in mid-January by the MOP team helped clarify and fine-tune these indicators.

With national level monitoring systems in place, the next challenge will be to ensure that capacities are in place to increase the quality of monitoring processes and to better mainstream climate change monitoring in existing programs and activities.



Photo: MoP team meets Battambang Provincial Department of Planning and other line officials.

Case study: Field Trip to Pursat and Battambang on 16-18 Jan 2018

The main objectives of the field visits to Pursat and Battambang provinces of Cambodia were not only limited to the following but included:

- 1) To assess the relevant CC statistics and adaptation data availability at the provincial levels, and understand the data gaps and needs;
- 2) To interview with key officers from SPCR investment projects and line departments on data needs and collection for CC planning and investments;
- 3) To collect some CC statistics and adaptation data from various stakeholders;
- 4) To consult with Sub-national authorities for consultation on development plans and possible integration of M&E of adaptation in the next planning cycle



Building Knowledge and capacities to mainstream climate change monitoring:

For this, the team in MoP has already drafted knowledge products to guide key stakeholder in the next phases. The knowledge product #3, a 'Harmonized Climate Resilience M&E Framework: Guidance for Tracking Adaptation Investments in Cambodia, outlines approaches to coordinate a complex system of data collection and aggregation. It was prepared in consultation with key ministries that are implementing ADB funded climate change activities. It builds on existing and ongoing practice of MOP, NCSD, sector ministries, and other development partners such as ADB and UNDP.



Click to follow link to video

Other key knowledge products under production are targeting the integration of adaptation indicators at sector level (KP 10) and the integration of adaptation integration in provincial and commune plans (KP11). These guiding technical reports go along with climate ME guidelines, training tools and operating procedure to operationalize data collection and mobile tools. The materials are geared to respond to the monitoring needs across levels, sectors, and climate dimensions. To further improve and support the monitoring of climate change at subnational level, the Package C of SPCR also has two teams that add focus on gender mainstreaming (with MoWA) and on the tracking of adaptation investments at local levels (with the NCDDS).

Integrating climate change in national results-based monitoring framework:



Click to follow link to video

The relevance of this work is foremost at national level, where technically, all data is produced within the NSDP ME Results Framework (following MENI guidelines). While the MoP NIS is the pivotal point for the data collection, the MoP's GDP also works closely with Package C to coordinate the use and integration of climate change monitoring into national ME systems and particularly to consider the tracking of climate investments in the NSDP.

Another key result from this activity at high level, is that new indicators specific to climate change adaptation can be integrated into the NSDP. Consequent progress was made during these meetings, particularly to coordinate and harmonize a national ME approach for climate change adaptation, under the guidance of the NCSD. The team has slated to conduct more high level meetings in the coming period to sustain these efforts and match the planning process of the next NSDP.

To this aim, top-level meetings were organized with key members of the National ME Working group. Two high level National ME technical working group meetings were held in the last year – focusing exclusively on climate change integration. This provided a unique platform for key actors to share and discuss climate change monitoring and to specifically on common interests related to the tracking investment funds at national and international levels.

One key outputs of the team is to facilitate and enhance the efficiency of the working group. Highly supportive of the approach, the MOP-GDP also sent out a letter of request to key ministries to nominate the representatives for the National M&E Working Group. In the process, discussions were also held on the status of the current working group – and key suggestions were taken on review the strategic role of key actors (NCSD, NCDDS) to promote the focus on climate change in this national ME working group.

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