

DEVELOPMENT COORDINATION

A. Major Development Partners: Strategic Foci and Key Activities

1. Aside from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the other major development partners supporting the education sector in Cambodia include the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA); European Union (EU); Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida); United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF); United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; and World Bank. JICA has supported teacher training, curriculum development, and equipment to training institutions for science and math in lower secondary education through a series of science and math teacher education projects. UNICEF, in collaboration with the EU and Sida, is supporting capacity building for planning, human resource management, and training of trainers to upgrade teacher qualifications in primary and lower secondary education. UNICEF, Sida, the EU, the World Bank, and ADB are supporting public financial management reforms. The World Bank is supporting quality improvements in (i) lower secondary education through the Secondary Education Improvement Project and (ii) higher education through the Higher Education Quality and Capacity Improvement Project.¹ Other international nongovernment organizations, such as the Flemish Association for Development Cooperation and Technical Assistance, Kampuchean Action for Primary Education, and Voluntary Service Overseas, support science and math education, capacity building for school directors and education staff in targeted schools and geographic areas, and modeling of the high-quality new generation schools (in the case of the Kampuchean Action for Primary Education). ADB is the only development partner supporting upper secondary education.

2. The table provides an overview of ADB and development partners’ ongoing support to the education sector in Cambodia.

Major Development Partners

Development Partner	Project Name	Duration	Amount (\$ million, unless otherwise stated)
ADB	Third Education Sector Development Program	2014–2017	24.5
	Upper Secondary Education Sector Development Program	2016–2021	45.0
EU	Cambodia Education Sector Reform Contract (budget support)	2014–2017	68.5
	Follow-up Cambodia Education Sector Reform (budget support), phase 5	2018–2021	€100
GPE	3 rd Global Partnership for Education grant	Apr 2018–Mar 2021	14.4
		Jan 2019–Dec 2021	6.2
JICA	Project for Educational Resource Development in Science and Mathematics at the Lower Secondary Level	2013–2016	2.5
Sida	School Improvement Grant	2013–2017	20.0

¹ World Bank. 2010. *Higher Education Quality and Capacity Improvement Project*. Washington, DC; and World Bank. 2017. *Secondary Education Improvement Project*. Washington, DC.

Development Partner	Project Name	Duration	Amount (\$ million, unless otherwise stated)
UNICEF	Capacity Development Partnership Fund (Phase II) through Sida and EU funds	2014–2017	15.9
VSO	Improved Quality of Teaching and Learning Strengthening Education Management	2015–2017	0.7
World Bank	Higher Education Quality and Capacity Improvement Project	2010–2017	23.0
	Secondary Education Improvement Project	2017–2022	40.0

ADB = Asian Development Bank, EU = European Union, GPE = Global Partnership for Education, JICA = Japan International Cooperation Agency, Sida = Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, UNESCO = United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, UNICEF = United Nations Children’s Fund, VSO = Voluntary Service Overseas, VVOB = the Flemish Association for Development Cooperation and Technical Assistance.

Source: ADB.

3. **Planned support from development partners.** JICA plans to support the establishment of teacher education colleges, focusing on pre- and in-service teacher training for lower secondary teachers. The EU is preparing follow-up budget support in the amount of €100 million, while the 3rd Global Partnership for Education grant, administered through UNICEF and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, will strengthen primary education from 2018 to 2021. The World Bank and Sida are jointly preparing a higher education project. The EU, Sida, UNICEF, the World Bank, and ADB will continue to support education management information system development and public financial management reforms in the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MoEYS).

B. Institutional Arrangements and Processes for Development Coordination

4. An education sector working group and a joint technical working group on education, composed of the MoEYS and development partners (including civil society organizations), have provided a platform for shared dialogue and coordination since the early 2000s. The development partners are committed to working within the national and sector priorities identified in the government’s National Strategic Development Plan, 2014-2018² and the MoEYS’s Education Strategic Plan, 2014–2018.³ The education sector working group meets regularly to inform members on the status of implementation of programs, projects, and initiatives in relation to different thematic areas to (i) prevent the duplication of project activities and (ii) discuss areas of complementation to facilitate the achievement of intended outcomes. The MoEYS and the development partners conduct an annual joint education sector review to assess sector performance against key government targets and identify gaps and weaknesses in implementation. The MoEYS organizes an annual retreat with development partners to discuss (i) the identified gaps, issues, and challenges; (ii) the government’s education reform priorities; and (iii) other development priorities and how the development partners can contribute to achieving the country’s education goals, targets, and vision.

C. Achievements and Issues

5. The development partners have played and continue to play a critical role in supporting government efforts to improve access to quality basic education. With their support, the

² Government of Cambodia. 2014. *National Strategic Development Plan, 2014–2018*. Phnom Penh.

³ Government of Cambodia, MOEYS. 2014. *Education Strategic Plan, 2014–2018*. Phnom Penh.

government has made significant gains and substantial progress in improving access to primary education. The increase in student enrollment at the lower secondary level is attributed to the specific support of the development partners. Despite these achievements, however, several challenges remain that need to be addressed. Coordination mechanisms between the government and its development partners need to be further sustained or even strengthened to avoid duplication of activities, and to ensure complementarity of interventions and support to address the remaining gaps. Close collaboration and extensive policy dialogue between and among the partners will be maintained to help the government address the widening skills gap and to support the development of the country's much needed human resources.

D. Summary and Recommendations

6. The design of the second Upper Secondary Education Sector Development Program supports the implementation of critical policies and program interventions to (i) improve teacher hiring and recruitment, professional development, and career progression; (ii) strengthen school-based management and leadership; (iii) implement curriculum and assessment reforms; (iv) expand high-quality schools; and (v) strengthen planning, management, and delivery of education services. There are common areas supported by the other education development partners that necessitate close coordination and collaboration between and among partners to achieve the intended results and maximize impact.