

Speech of the UN Resident Coordinator, Ms Claire Van der Vaeren
UNDAF 2011-2015 Joint Annual Review – 2012/2013
12 February 2014

Excellency, Chhieng Yanara, Minister Attached to the Prime Minister and Secretary General of CRDB and Secretary General CDC,
Excellencies,
Distinguished representatives of the Royal Government of Cambodia,
Colleagues from the UN System in Cambodia,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the United Nations System in Cambodia, both resident and non-resident agencies, it is our pleasure to join colleagues representing the Royal Government of Cambodia for our annual review of the UN Development Assistance Framework or UNDAF 2011-2015. At the outset I would like to thank His Excellency Chhieng Yanara and the CRDB for convening and organizing this meeting. This year we combine our review of results for both 2012 and 2013, complementing the report on results in 2011 made earlier, and priorities for 2014, with some perspectives for 2015.

We take this opportunity to thank all government colleagues for their cooperation in the last two years and the continued dedication to making it possible for us all to continue to work together effectively.

While there is no longer an obligation to have a mid-term review *per se*, this year is the mid-point of implementation of the UNDAF 2011-2015, a results-focused framework for our joint efforts in Cambodia aimed to the achievement of national development goals, and thus we appreciate the convening of this meeting at this critical time. The framework combines the work of UN agencies operating in Cambodia and represents a joint commitment to support Government in its implementation of the Rectangular Strategy Phase II, the ongoing National Strategic Development Plan, and the attainment of Cambodia's Millennium Development Goals by 2015. The UNDAF is built around five outcomes, each representing mutually agreed priorities for UN support, drawing on the technical expertise and comparative advantage of the UN.

Whilst my colleagues will provide detailed insights into results across the UNDAF framework, some illustrations of the depth and breadth of our partnership, include support to:

- raising sustainable agricultural productivity, focusing on poor smallholder farmers and cooperatives;
- further strengthening of the National Industrial Development Policy and trade facilitation;
- multi-pronged efforts to improve food security and decrease malnutrition;
- improved primary school net enrolment rates;
- the development of the second National Action Plan to end Violence Against Women (NAPVAW);
- a range of initiatives addressing the needs of male and female youth in Cambodia;
- the formulation by government of the national Development Cooperation and Partnership Strategy and the National Strategic Development Plan;
- the promotion of human rights and the strengthening of capacity of national institutions at central and sub-national level;
- the development of the national social protection policy and social protection advocacy in the ASEAN region; and
- emergency response and support to a joint needs assessment after the 2013 floods.

If we look at delivery, a throughput of around US\$ 80 million was achieved in 2012 and 2013, with an average delivery rate of nearly 70%.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Today's dialogue is an important opportunity to also discuss how we as the UN system continue to respond effectively as a key partner in a coordinated aid environment. This includes demonstrating our ongoing commitment to strengthened UN coherence with specific consideration for 'Development for Results' as identified through the Busan forum and through the UN's Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review, or QCPR, which establishes the UN's commitments and expectations for UN reform at policy, operational and programmatic level. The UN acknowledges and supports the Royal Government of Cambodia's adoption through its Development Cooperation Partnership Strategy of five of the global outcome indicators formulated in Busan, and we aim to remain an active facilitator within the Government's sectoral framework of Technical Working Groups to support these commitments. We therefore take this opportunity to reinforce our commitment to:

- supporting the Royal Government of Cambodia's leadership and ownership under the NSDP,
- focusing on results with an emphasis on the poor and vulnerable, and
- increasing levels of transparency and accountability to each other.

At the 2011 Joint UNDAF Review meeting we made a commitment to continue our discussion about UNDAF implementation through the use of concrete mutual achievements. We look forward to maintaining that tradition of people-centred and results-based discussion in this meeting today. Through our annual dialogue, we continue to foster our partnership so that this collaboration can be sustained and that the UN remains well positioned to contribute. As has been our priority in the past, we aim to demonstrate a focused and cohesive approach to harmonised programme implementation in Cambodia going into 2014. In doing so, we recognise the importance of the Government's leadership for driving coherence and multi-sectoral approaches.

The UN continues to implement joint programmes where such strengthened coherence and multi-partner approaches will deliver impact through concrete programmatic results. Examples include the work in 2013 to formulate the Australia-Cambodia Disability Joint Programme, and the joint efforts to address climate change through UN-REDD. The UN's coordinated HIV response built around the national HIV & AIDS strategy through the UN's Joint Support Programme is another example. The Spanish MDG Achievement Fund, which supported joint programme of Children Food Security and Nutrition in selected provinces, concluded this year. We appreciated the Government's leadership in the implementation of this government-led partnership with the UN system in Cambodia.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

The UN works to mainstream a number of cross cutting issues through all our work and our engagement with partners. Key among these are: Gender, Human Rights, Youth and HIV & AIDS. In addition, we began a dialogue with government around Vision 2030, the Rectangular Strategy III and the upcoming NSDP centered on emerging (and re-emerging) issues, such as a holistic approach to human capital development, including skills building, urbanization and climate change. Integral to these discussions have also been the government's objective, as noted in the Rectangular Strategy III and the NSDP to implement Public Administration, Public Financial Management, and Legal and Judicial Reforms.

In 2013, the UN remained committed to joint advocacy in three key areas of particular concern for CMDG attainment, namely:

Maternal Health – where we advocated that “No woman should die giving life”

Youth – where we advocated that “Young people are Cambodia's most valuable resource”

Food Security and Nutrition – where we advocated that “ Everyone has the right to a healthy and nutritious, hunger-free life”

Post-2015 consultations held in Cambodia in 2013 reinforced these priority areas of advocacy and positioned Cambodia positively in the Post-2015 global dialogue.

As a part of our commitment to UN reform the UNCT continues to capitalise on its comparative advantage and the added value of working together. In the context of the UNDAF 2011 – 2015 we are focused on a number of strategic priorities that benefit from joint collaboration and resource mobilisation. You may recall our report at the Joint Annual Review meeting in 2011 against these ‘break through’ areas of:

- Nutrition
- Community based drug treatment
- Sexual and Gender Based Violence Programme
- Localising and accelerating progress on the CMDGs
- Social Protection

We hope you will hear today throughout our presentation how this focus has led to specific results in both policy and programme areas.

True to the principle of coherence and speaking with one voice, our presentation today will be delivered by a number of UN Country Team Members who speak on behalf of the UN Country Team as a whole:

Ms Nina Brandstrup, will focus on Economic Growth and Sustainable Development,
Mr Pieter van Maaren, will focus on Health and Education,
Ms Wenny Kusuma, will focus on Gender,
Ms Setsuko Yamazaki will focus on Governance, and
Mr Gianpietro Bordignon, will focus on Social Protection.

These interventions refer directly to the goals jointly agreed in the UNDAF results framework and will concentrate on highlights of strategic results as presented in the UNDAF Outcome Summary Report. We will, as requested, highlight cross-cutting issues throughout the presentation. You will also hear about challenges faced, as well as priorities for 2014, and to some extent 2015.

In the way forward segment of our agenda, Ms Sarah Knibbs, co-chair of the UNDAF Steering Group will, on the UNCT’s behalf, provide an overview of the plans for the formulation of the future UNDAF for 2016-2018, in line with standing UN guidelines.

To conclude, our common commitment through the UNDAF is to improve the livelihoods of all men, women and children living in Cambodia, and ensure that they are able to realize their full potential. This central priority continues to guide our day-to-day work, our collaborations and our partnerships.

Thank you, Okun Charan.

I am pleased to turn now to the outcome presentation. Each presenter will follow in the order assigned for each outcome, as announced. First I would like to give the floor to Ms. Nina Brandstrup. Nina, you have the floor.

