

STATISTICAL MASTER PLAN FOR CAMBODIA

Prepared by National Institute of Statistics

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ACRONYMS

ADB Asian Development Bank ASC Annual Schools Survey BoP Balance of Payments

CDC Council for the Development of Cambodia
CDHS Cambodia Demographic and Health Survey
CDRI Cambodia Development Resource Institute
CIPS Cambodia Inter-censal Population Survey
CMDG Cambodia Millennium Development Goals

CPI Consumer Price Index

CSES Cambodia Socio-Economic Survey

DFID Department for International Development, UK

DHS Demographic and Health Survey

EC European Commission

EMIS Education Management Information System

GDDS General Data Dissemination System

GDP Gross Domestic Product GTZ German technical cooperation

HMIS Health Management Information System

IMF International Monetary Fund

JICA Japan International Cooperation Agency

LFS Labour Force Survey

MAFF Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

MDG Millennium Development Goals
MEF Ministry of Economy and Finance
MIME Ministry of Industry, Mines and Energy
MIS Management Information System

MLVT Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training MoEYS Ministry of Education Youth and Sports

MOH Ministry of Health MoP Ministry of Planning

MSA Multisector Statistics Adviser
MWA Ministry of Women's Affairs
NBC National Bank of Cambodia
NGO Non-Government Organisation

NHSCP National Household Survey Capability Programme

NIS National Institute of Statistics
NPRS National Poverty Reduction Strategy
NSDP National Strategic Development Plan

NSS National Statistical System

PARIS21 Partnership In Statistics for the 21st century PMATU Poverty Monitoring and Analysis Technical Unit

PMG Priority Mission Group PPI Producer Price Index

RGC Royal Government of Cambodia

RS Rectangular Strategy
SES Socio-Economic Survey

SIDA Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency

SMP Statistical Master Plan

UNDP United Nations Development Programme

UNESCO United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation

UNIFPA United Nations Population Fund UNICEF United Nations Children's Fund

USAID United States Agency for International Development

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- This Statistical Master Plan (SMP) sets out a long-term, prioritised plan for Cambodia's national statistical system (NSS). It covers the whole of the NSS, including the National Institute of Statistics (NIS), statistical units in line ministries, and the National Bank of Cambodia. The Plan builds on earlier work done by the NIS, including the preparation of a Five Year Strategic Plan and a Five Year Forward Work Programme. The Plan also draws on the work done at a Statistical Capacity Building Workshop hosted by the Ministry of Planning (MOP) and the Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF) in October 2002, where a large number of priority statistical projects were proposed by various Ministries, the National Bank of Cambodia (NBC) and NIS. The Statistical Master Plan (SMP) provides the strategic long-term view and long-term financing plan needed for planning statistical activities (which have long planning horizons and often take place over several years).
- Earlier reviews have highlighted the fact that that there was no broad agreement on the priority ranking of the proposed statistics activities, and, in total, might have stretched the absorptive capacity of the NIS. There was also a significant funding gap, if Cambodia was to conduct its core statistical activities and build adequate statistical capacity. It is expected that the Plan and related funding proposal, once agreed, will be submitted to the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) in time for the Plan's inclusion in the 2006 Budget Law.
- By setting out clearly the intended work programme of the NSS, the SMP provides an indication of the aspirations of the RGC and of its priorities between competing statistical requirements. It should also prove useful to external agencies and donors that are engaged in assisting the RGC to develop a fully functioning NSS. It provides a framework for technical assistance and a basis for better coordination among donors within the context of the priorities established by the Government.
- The highest priority for the NSS is to maintain existing economic and sociodemographic statistics, and to improve their quality and timeliness. Some additional activities are included as high priority in order to improve quality and fill gaps in the priority outputs. Priority statistics include: compilation of the annual and quarterly National Accounts; the expanded Consumer Price Index; producer and agricultural commodity price indices; indices of agricultural and industrial production and of retail sales; and labour force statistics and a labour costs index. Also included are: agricultural production statistics and crops, livestock and fisheries statistics; education, health, labour market and tourism statistics; and poverty and demographic measures and access to basic facilities.
- The current financing gap for priority activities is USD 32.6 million over the ten year SMP period. Total direct costs over the period are estimated to be USD 44.1 million—so the funding gap is about 74 percent of total requirements. The total of USD 44.1 million includes some USD 13.8 million for census work—censuses of population, agriculture and business establishments. It also includes some USD 12.2 million for surveys—of households (on income and expenditure, health, demographic, labour force and other subjects) and of establishments. These activities have relied on external funding in the past.

- The estimated RGC statistics budget for priority activities in 2005 is USD 0.6 million. It is suggested that RGC funding for priority statistical activities increase by 10 percentage points of the financing gap a year over the period to 100 percent by 2015. Under this profile, RGC funding for priority statistical activities would increase to an USD 3.7 million a year by 2015 (at 2005 constant prices). If all the non-priority activities are included, some USD 5.2 million a year (at 2005 constant prices) would be required. By comparison, the 2005 government budget allocations for statistics is USD 11 million for Vietnam, USD 15 million for Thailand, and USD 30 million for Malaysia. Over the period covered by the SMP, external assistance could increasingly focus on further developments, improvements and new activities not covered by the current priority list.
- The Census programme outlined is for a Population census in 2008, Agricultural census in 2009 and an Establishments survey in 2007.
- Household surveys should be based on a continuous household survey programme approach. Large occasional surveys (e.g. DHS and LFS) will be integrated into this framework, with larger sample sizes and detailed questionnaires as before (to maintain comparability over time in Cambodia, and internationally with other countries).
- Statistical capacity development will continue to be highly reliant on external inputs
 of technical assistance. The key component of statistical capacity building is training.
 But training inputs have to be coordinated to meet the overall objectives of
 development of the capacity of the NSS rather than being delivered in a piecemeal
 manner. On-the-job training is an important component to augment and consolidate
 formal training. Management training must be provided as well as technical statistical
 training.
- The new Statistics Law provides consultation and cooperation mechanisms to develop the NSS. Priority statistical activities can be established through these mechanisms. These will enable statistical standards, classification systems and methodologies to be developed and updated consistently across all Cambodian official statistics.

PART I: CURRENT STATUS AND ASSESSMENT

1. Background and Process

1.1 Development plans in government

- 1. Following the formation of the new government in July 2004, the Prime Minister launched the Rectangular Strategy (RS) for Growth, Employment, Equity and Efficiency, which will guide the implementation of the economic policy agenda of the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC). The RS, which can be visualized as a series of interlocking rectangles, has good governance at its core. Quality statistical information that allows the monitoring of activities managed by the government is critical for improving the governance standard in Cambodia. The other rectangles focus on the desired environment to implement the strategy, and on promoting economic growth through agriculture development, rehabilitation and construction of physical infrastructure, Private Sector Development, and capacity building and human resource development.
- 2. To implement the development vision set out in the RS, the Government and development partners have agreed to prepare a single planning document, the National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP), for the period 2006–2010. The NSDP draws together the Cambodia Millennium Development Goals (CMDG), the Socio-Economic Development Plan 2001–2005, the National Poverty Reduction Strategy 2003–2005 (NPRS), the Governance Action Plan (including the National Public Administration Reform), and the Public Financial Management Reforms. The NSDP mandates the monitoring and reporting of the progress of priority activities laid out in the Plan, and this requires timely and reliable official statistics that are accessible to those who have stakes in the Plan. The implementation plan for the NSDP was discussed at a workshop on 27-28 July in Phnom Penh, immediately prior to the workshop on the SMP. A series of indicators to monitor progress in these areas has been formulated. Conclusions on indicators for monitoring and assessing the NSDP are the key determinant of the priorities for the work programme of the statistical system of Cambodia.

1.2 Statistical developments

- 3. Official statistical infrastructure and activities were largely non-existent a decade ago in Cambodia, but significant efforts have been made in recent years to improve its statistical system. In particular, notable improvements have been made in Cambodia's statistical efforts in areas of formal structure, management, staff training, dissemination practices and accessibility of data. Hitherto, development of official statistics has been piecemeal, constrained by lack of funds and partly driven by availability of external funding resources. There has been little opportunity to develop a long term, sustainable, coherent and realistic strategy for the development of official statistics.
- 4. However, there has been a significant effort to collect, estimate, and report on the MDG indicators, largely due to the preparation of the Cambodia Millennium Development Goals (CMDG) Report and the desire to integrate the MDG monitoring framework into national policy evaluation, especially through NPRS monitoring. Successful completion of the 1998 census and 2000 Cambodia Demographic and Health Survey (CDHS), in particular, has contributed to benchmarking important aspects of socio-economic conditions of the country. At the line ministries, a variety of management information systems that process administrative and other data have been developed including Education Management

Information System and Health Management Information System, although the inter-system coordination and the donor dependency issues need to be improved. At the national level reporting, more than 80 percent (26 of the 32) of the MDG indicators (or close approximations of these indicators) have at least two data points between 1990 and 2003. At the international level the availability is somewhat lower, with two-thirds of the MDG indicators (21 of the 32) having at least two data points during the same period. The recent completion of the 2004 Cambodian Inter-censal Population Survey (CIPS) and the 2004 Cambodian Socio-Economic Survey (CSES) means that more up-to-date measures of these indicators will be available in the near future.

- 5. In addition, demand for reliable and timely data as the basis of the indicators required for the NPRS and NSDP is an important driver for further development of the statistical system.
- 6. Increasing demands are being made on the limited resources available for statistical work and on the limited capacity of the National Institute of Statistics (NIS), line ministries and the National Bank of Cambodia (NBC). Further demands are foreseen.
- 7. The prioritisation of demands and the further development of statistical capacity have to be considered in the context of a coherent strategic plan for development of statistics. This SMP indicates a general strategy for development of the statistical system, which can be followed as resources permit.
- 8. Adoption of the General Data Dissemination System (GDDS) framework on statistical pre-requisites and core macro-economic and socio-demographic statistics in 2001 has further helped the process of statistical development in Cambodia. Initially this has drawn attention to the need for the prerequisites for good statistics: sound legal and institutional foundations. Work has already been undertaken to provide this underpinning for the statistical system.
- 9. Following extensive consultation, a new Statistics Law was enacted in May 2005. Sub-Decrees implementing various aspects of the Law are being prepared. The Law gives the NIS a specific legal basis for its activities and gives it a broader role in the development of official statistics and of the statistical system as a whole. In particular, it provides the NIS with strong coordinating powers across other ministries and institutions:

"The National Institute of Statistics, under the Ministry of Planning, shall be responsible for making official statistical policies in establishing an integrated National Statistical System, encompassing all designated official statistics and statistical organizational units within ministries and institutions. The Royal Government shall issue a Sub-Decree on the operation of the National Statistical System and designated official statistics." (Art. 13)

10. A Statistics Advisory Council is to be established (Art. 15) to "facilitate the development of the National Statistical System". This will be a forum for stakeholders to influence the planning and priorities of official statistics and also be a mechanism for encouraging and monitoring coordination across the statistical system. Additionally, a Statistics Coordination Committee is to be established (Art. 16) to "assist...the technical coordination of the official statistics of the Royal Government". The details of how these two bodies will work will be set out in Sub-Decrees.

11. The Law will encourage an integrated NSS by making the NIS the official statistical policymaking body, with responsibilities to coordinate official statistical activities over all statistical units within the ministries and other government organizations.

1.3 Relationship with donors

- 12. The statistical system, and NIS in particular, has benefited significantly from various activities of the donor community. Most of the data collection, processing, analysis and dissemination activities are dependent on external financing. In recent years the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) have provided extensive support on capacity building and data collections for macro-economic and industry statistics. Training courses were conducted, and on-the-job training given, on a variety of topics in economic statistics. Establishment surveys were carried out in 1993, 1995 and 2000, with support received from ADB and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The ADB support was provided over a ten-year period but ceased in 2003. The collection of prices in five provinces for the CPI (Consumer Price Index) was started with assistance from ADB but NIS has continued to collect these data. Training activities have continued with IMF support. However there is currently no donor or government financing for establishment or labour force surveys, with the exception of the CPI collection. This has had a significant adverse impact on the quality of macro-economic statistics and has resulted in a number of core macro-economic indicators (e.g. labour force, producer prices, production indexes) not being produced.
- 13. Official socio-demographic statistics are almost entirely dependent on donor funding. Financial and technical assistance from UNDP, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the World Bank, and bilateral donors have been instrumental in developing and maintaining the socio-demographic programme of statistics for Cambodia. However the development of socio-demographic statistics has been uneven and has been driven by the priorities of donor programmes, rather than the need to provide RGC with relevant and appropriate data for monitoring national programmes.
- 14. Donors have tended to provide funding and technical assistance for large-scale statistical collections, most notably the 1998 population census. UNDP, the World Bank, and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) have funded the 2003/2004 Cambodia Household Socio-Economic Survey, which includes an income and expenditure component. The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has largely financed rounds of the Cambodia Demographic and Health Survey (CDHS). Most earlier data collection activities have been financed by donors rather than by RGC.
- 15. The NIS has undertaken a series of reviews to address institutional and organisational issues. Several of these have benefited from assistance from the resident IMF Multisector Statistics Adviser. These reviews include:
 - Report on Statistical Capacity Building for Cambodia's Official Statistics, July 2002
 - Partnership in Statistical Capacity Building for Cambodia Workshop–Final Report, October 2002
 - Assessment of Cambodia's Statistical Capacity, June 2003
 - Structure, Roles and Functions of the National Institute of Statistics, Ministry of Planning–Final Report, July 2003
 - NIS Strategic Plan, 2002–2006

- *NIS Work Program 2003–2007*
- PARIS21 (PARtnership In Statistics for the 21st Century) Task Team on Improved Statistical Support for Monitoring Development Goals. Country Case Study—Cambodia, Final Draft August 2004.

1.4 Lessons learned

- 16. The benefits of the large surveys (CSES, CDHS, CIPS) and the 1998 Population Census are significant. They provide the basis for most of the economic, social and demographic information available. The training components of these activities have been important in developing the skills and capacity of NIS and statistics units in some of the line ministries. However, there is a need to improve coordination between donors, the NIS, NBC and line ministries. For example, administrative and other data collected through line ministries should complement data collected by NIS to produce important statistics, and they should be made readily available from a consolidated database (CAMInfo) to users. Effective communication among these various agencies in the process of designing and implementing surveys are also important. The lesson of improved coordination between NIS, NBC and line ministries is already reflected in the provisions of the new Statistics Law.
- 17. There is a need for greater coordination of the content and timing of survey activities. This includes improved consultation and agreement with other stakeholders on methodological issues, standardized questions and common approaches to analysis.
- 18. The capacity of the NIS to conduct data collections in the field has developed to the point where data quality has improved and a strong fieldwork capacity has been developed. Regular, perhaps continuous, survey operations will consolidate and further develop this capacity. Regular, shorter surveys may be very useful for intermediate monitoring purposes and updating indicators used for policy monitoring. Encouraging the NBC and line ministries to use the NIS fieldwork capacity for their surveys would also strengthen this capacity, improving cost-effectiveness of RGC statistical activities at the same time.
- 19. A key lesson is that relying on donor financing for the large-scale surveys and censuses is not a sustainable strategy. The timing of surveys or censuses on particular topics (e.g. agriculture, health, household expenditure) needs to reflect the priority data needs of users and the statistical system. The timing and the topic of a survey should not be driven by the lure of available funds for particular activities. The data collections underlying key economic and socio-demographic statistics and indicators must move towards funding by RGC. The large, key surveys and censuses have to take place regularly in order to maintain up-to-date quality statistical information. They are the foundation stones of an effective national statistical system (NSS) and should, ultimately, be part of the core budget of the NSS.

1.5 How this SMP was prepared

- 20. The SMP has been prepared by the NIS, with the assistance of a World Bank project on Statistical Master Plan Finalisation and Capacity Development, and in close consultation with line ministries and development partners. The SMP draws on earlier reports and papers prepared by or with the NIS. The following documents have been of particular value in this work:
 - Ministry of Planning, NIS Strategic Plan 2002–2006

- Ministry of Planning, Forward Work Program of the NIS 2003–2007
- PARIS21 country case study report for Cambodia, August 2004
- Partnership in Statistical Capacity Building for Cambodia Workshop October 9–11, 2002 Final Report
- List of monitoring indicators for NSDP
- PARIS21 Statistical Capacity Building Indicators
- 21. Extensive discussions have been held with key stakeholders: NIS and MOP staff, other Ministries (particularly Ministries of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries; Economy and Finance; Education, Youth and Sports; and Health), NBC, the Council for the Development of Cambodia, international development partners (ADB, EC Delegation, IMF, UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, World Bank and WFP) and with AUSAID, DFID, French Embassy, GTZ, JICA, SIDA and USAID.
- 22. The draft SMP was discussed at a SMP Workshop on July 29, 2005, attended by senior representatives of government, the donor community and other stakeholders. The workshop endorsed the draft SMP as a strategic overview of the development of the statistical system of Cambodia. The added value of the document is that is it a single national reference document for all stakeholders interested in improving Cambodian official statistics. In particular, statistical outputs can now be planned and timetabled, by mobilising resources sufficiently ahead of time. The planned supply of information has been synchronised with the demand for it from policy-makers and other users. The actions proposed at the workshop on NSDP on July 27-28, 2005, have been reflected in the SMP, particularly those dealing with the monitoring indicators to be adopted. The SMP also reflects further input from stakeholders since the July workshop and the informal SMP meeting with development partners on October 6, 2005.

2. Current Status of the National Statistical System

2.1 Components of the national statistical system

- 23. Cambodia's NSS is largely decentralised. Various ministries and other institutions collect and produce statistics as part of their work. Some data come from administrative systems, and others from statistical enquiries. Much of this information is used as a basis for policy and programme formulation, planning and monitoring, research and analysis. The central institution in the NSS is the NIS in MOP. Other key ministries for economic, social, demographic and environment statistics are the Ministries of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF); Economy and Finance (MEF); Education, Youth and Sports (MoEYS); Health (MoH); MOP, Commerce (MOC) and Tourism (MOT). Other ministries and institutions also collect, use and provide statistical information and form part of the NSS. The other major institution involved in the production and use of economic statistics is NBC.
- 24. The Statistics Law sets out a clear demarcation of responsibilities and relationships, which is necessary for a decentralised NSS to work efficiently and effectively. The Statistics Law and the planned Sub-Decrees will provide this framework and will encourage the integration of activities into a national statistical system. All government agencies are stakeholders in the NSS, as also are academia, non-government organizations and research institutes. The NIS is part of MOP. It has a staff of about 600 (including staff at provincial and district offices). About 70 of these are statisticians, divided approximately equally into economic and socio-demographic statisticians. There is significant statistical production in

the line ministries and the NBC. There are about 230 staff involved in statistical activities in these institutions, of whom about half have a statistical or other relevant qualification.

2.2 Relations between the components of the national statistical system

- 25. The new Statistics Law describes the roles of the institutions making up the NSS and sets out relationships between them. The Law, together with the Sub-Decrees which will provide details of some provisions of the Law, will give a full picture of the institutional infrastructure for statistics in Cambodia. Coordination and prioritisation of activities and of standards and methods is the glue creating an integrated national statistical system from a decentralised set of statistical activities. The Law makes specific provision for dialogue between users and producers of statistics through the Statistics Advisory Council. The Law also makes specific provision for coordination and cooperation through the Statistics Coordination Committee.
- 26. In the recent past the MEF and MOP organised a workshop on "Partnerships in Statistical Capacity Building" bringing together stakeholders to discuss statistical needs and the statistical capacity and resources required. Although the workshop produced many proposals, few of them could be fully realized. No agreed list of activities and their priorities was produced. Communication between NIS and ministries and users could be developed by conducting a series of seminars and workshops to determine statistical priorities. Workshops could be linked to the launch of national development reports or the start of major surveys or censuses.

3. Assessment of Strengths and Weaknesses of Current System

3.1 Infrastructure of the national statistical system

- 27. The Statistics Law and the draft associated Sub-Decrees establish the NSS. They cover the main issues and set out clearly the roles and relationships of the various components of the NSS. But it is too early to say whether the new infrastructure and institutional arrangements provided by the Law are adequate. How things evolve in practice will be closely watched. While the Law provides technical independence for the NIS and official statistics, many of the stakeholders consulted during the preparation of this SMP felt that the Law should have made provision for full autonomy and budgetary independence of the NIS and official statistics. The coordination and consultation arrangements, particularly the Statistics Advisory Council and the Statistics Coordination Committee, will work well with goodwill on all sides. These arrangements should be a considerable strength for an integrated, decentralised, NSS.
- 28. Resources for official statistics are a major weakness. Most large data collection exercises (establishment and household surveys, and the Population Census of 1998) have relied on external, donor funding. Without this there would be few key economic, social and demographic statistics, nor would there be many of the monitoring indicators for the CMDG, NSDP and other strategies of the RGC. This is not a sustainable strategy for financing official statistics. It can also lead to distortions in the priorities of the national statistical system. This SMP is designed to address this weakness.
- 29. The production of statistics depends heavily on technical assistance. Training can address this weakness and is the major component of statistical capacity building. However,

in terms of contributing to sustainability, training can only be effective if the skills acquired can be applied immediately. Hence the need for continuous or more frequent surveys.

30. Management skills are also a weakness. A qualified top management is in place. But middle level staff lack management skills and training as well as statistical skills and experience. There are similar issues across the statistical system.

3.2 Statistical outputs and data quality

- 31. The outputs of the statistical system have been reviewed in detail in several previous reports. Here, only a brief summary has been included.¹ In recent years there have been several notable achievements. A national population census was conducted successfully in 1998, several surveys such as the 2000 Cambodia Demographic and Health Survey have been carried out, and the standing of the NIS in the eyes of the other ministries and of the public at large appears to have improved.
- 32. Cambodia has subscribed to, and implemented, the General Data Dissemination System (GDDS) framework. This is an IMF statistics capacity building initiative, which encourages member countries to improve the quality of their statistical infrastructure and statistical data. It provides a framework for evaluating countries' needs for data improvement and for setting priorities. The framework guides member countries in the dissemination to the public of comprehensive, timely, accessible and reliable macro-economic and sociodemographic statistics. Metadata for all areas of Cambodia's statistics covered by the GDDS are displayed on the GDDS website. This information covers issues such as coverage of each data series, periodicity of collection, timeliness and dissemination.
- 33. Despite these positive developments, there remain many weaknesses in the present system that need to be addressed.
- 34. ADB gave considerable technical and financial support to NIS for economic statistics during 1993-2003, but since then there has been a dearth of resources for economic statistics, and only limited developmental work has been possible, using IMF technical assistance. Although NIS does provide official estimates of *gross domestic product* (GDP) and its components, the database used for its compilation is still weak and fragmentary, despite significant improvements under the ADB and IMF technical assistance projects. Information for most sectors is not collected on a systematic basis. An establishment survey was conducted in 2000, and a labour force survey in 2001, in an attempt to strengthen the underlying data sources.
- 35. The national accounts consist of the minimum set of tables that cover the period 1993-2004. GDP is estimated annually on both production and expenditure approaches and at current as well as constant 2000 prices. Experimental estimates of GDP by factor income and Gross National Income are also released annually. A publication on concepts, sources and methods used in the compilation of the national accounts was released in 2004. The implementation of the System of National Accounts 1993 as a general framework is in progress, but is expected to take several years to fully implement. A medium-term aim is to compile and disseminate quarterly national accounts. If that were to happen, it would also be necessary to conduct a quarterly Labour Force Survey (LFS) to provide the underlying data.

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¹ See for instance the Statistics Capacity Position Paper, prepared by the IMF MSA, and the more recent case study prepared by a Paris21 consortium.

A quarterly LFS would also provide data on labour seasonality, and the flows into and out of agriculture and fisheries, from and to other industries—topics of considerable policy interest.

- 36. Agriculture is a major area of economic activity in Cambodia, but surprisingly no benchmark *census of agriculture* has ever been conducted. Under the new Statistics Law, agricultural censuses are required to be undertaken at least once every ten years. To save on costs, it may be necessary to do this as a partial census, with all large establishments being covered, but only a sample of the smaller establishments. Conducting the agriculture census immediately after the next population census would also reduce data collection costs. In future close collaboration between NIS and MAFF will be needed, both in the conduct of agricultural surveys (such as the recently completed crop and livestock survey) and to help improve MAFF's administrative data sources.
- 37. Similarly, NIS is required by law to carry out a *census of establishments* every ten years. This census will provide comprehensive information about all sectors of industry, and will enable NIS to set up a comprehensive register of establishments, for use as a sampling frame for future surveys. Previous attempts to construct a sampling frame of industrial establishments, in preparation for earlier surveys of industrial establishments, had resulted in a fairly complete frame for Phnom Penh at the time of listing, but less complete frames for the rest of the country, particularly for smaller establishments. One critical issue would be to maintain the register over time using a feedback mechanism linked to company and tax registration, so that it can be used regularly for surveys. A related issue is to ensure that all ministries with an interest in establishment data use the same industrial classifications (i.e. UN International Standard Industry Classification) for identifying the industry group to which each establishment belongs.
- 38. A monthly *Consumer Price Index* is prepared for Phnom Penh (since 1994), as well as a quarterly urban CPI based on price collections for Phnom Penh and for five provincial centres (since 2000). The aim in the near future is to expand price collection to cover all 18 other provincial centres. If no funds are available to support this larger data collection exercise, it has been suggested that the monthly price collection could be changed to quarterly in order to extend the geographic coverage. An experimental *Producer Price Index* was published on a quarterly basis over three years (March quarter 2000 to September quarter 2003), but the NIS does not have the resources for an ongoing PPI.
- 39. There have been improvements in the timeliness and regularity of *export and import data*, and bulletins are produced twice a year, showing the data analysed according to the UN Harmonised Commodity Description and Coding System. However, detailed monthly data showing commodity by country are needed. Again, NIS needs to work closely with the Customs and Excise Department to help improve the quality of data.
- 40. There has been some improvement in the reporting of *communications* data collected by NIS from the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications, but closer cooperation is needed to assess the value of the data produced. Similarly, NIS has had improved access to the data on *building permits* available at the Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction. Some work has recently been done to improve *environmental statistics*, with assistance from ADB.
- 41. As one would expect, the NBC maintains a good system of *financial sector statistics* relating to its own operations and that of commercial banks, but there is inadequate data on related issues such as micro-finance, moneychangers, and insurance. The NBC also produces

quarterly *external sector statistics* on external debt, balance of payments and the international investment position; however, there are still significant data gaps and weaknesses in the source data due to the lack of regular international investment and trade in services surveys. The MEF produces monthly government *fiscal* operations data, however data on government debt or on public finance are not available. The *industry* data available in the Ministry of Industry, Mines and Energy is used by NIS staff for national accounts purposes. The data relate to registrations, and there is some data available on employment and fixed assets, though it is of poor quality. It is now difficult to get data on *mining and energy*, because the statistical units responsible for producing the statistics for these sectors have been disbanded.

- 42. There is some collection of *tourism* statistics at the provincial level. Attempts have been made to collect tourism statistics from hotels, but some of them have proved uncooperative. In addition, there has been no recent international visitors' expenditure survey because of the ending of funding from ADB. Similarly in the area of *transportation*, there is only limited data on the number of vehicles and very little current data available on the quantity, quality and use of transport facilities. The Council for the Development of Cambodia produces annual data on the level of *development aid* and monthly data on the *investment* approvals. However, both datasets have significant coverage and data quality shortcomings.
- 43. In general the social field is better served for statistics, though there is sometimes disagreement over what is the correct figure for a particular indicator caused by different sources and/or methodologies used to derive it recent problem areas are infant mortality and maternal mortality. There is also a need for the NIS to ensure that data users understand that particular surveys have been designed to produce particular indicators and not others (e.g. the CSES are designed mainly for poverty, income and expenditure measures and not for infant mortality and maternal mortality indicators). The *population* census in 1998 was carried out successfully, and provided valuable benchmark data. Since then, there has been an inter-censal population survey, and the release of new population projections for Cambodia.
- 44. In the general field of *health*, the data available to the MoH come mainly from the public health system. Private health facilities are not well covered. Much useful health data come from the various health surveys (e.g. the sentinel surveys) conducted by the ministry or in collaboration with NIS (e.g. demographic and health survey). The MOH also publish monthly data on communicable diseases. Data on nutrition and food security are collected through various national surveys (e.g. CSES or DHS) as well as through more detailed work done by a GTZ project attached to the MOP.
- 45. Data on public *education* (particularly primary and secondary) are collected by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, and are reasonably complete. Data for private sector education, higher education and vocational training are much less complete, and for non-formal education almost non-existent. Other key educational indicators are available from surveys carried out by NIS from time to time.
- 46. In the case of *income and poverty*, the best source of data is the regular series of CSES (and the occasional LFS) carried out by NIS. Four CSES were conducted during the 1990s, but poverty analysts have had difficulty in drawing useful conclusions from them, because of the different methodologies used. These differences have related to the sampling frames used, the form of the questionnaire, the length of the fieldwork, and the way in which

the questionnaire is applied in the field. The latest CSES was conducted in 2003/04 and January 2005.

- 47. For other areas of social statistics there are only limited data available, though in some instances the situation may be expected to improve because of the provision of outside technical assistance. Examples are the assistance given by AusAID in the field of *crime and justice*, and the assistance of JICA in the case of *gender statistics* through its support for the Ministry of Women's Affairs (MWA). Statistical information for certain groups of the population, such as the immunization rate for *children*, is of course available from many of the surveys conducted by NIS.
- 48. There have been several important developments in the area of dissemination of statistics. In particular, NIS produces a Cambodian Statistics Yearbook, the NIS website is now fully operational and being developed still further, and many of the key statistical series are available from NIS in a convenient CD-ROM format, under a special project known as CAMInfo. A number of donors have provided financial and technical support for these dissemination activities.
- 49. A major problem with much of the statistical work in Cambodia is the general absence of guidelines for setting national standards. In many fields, such as trade or employment, guidelines are issued at the international level but these then need to be tailored to the particular circumstances of the national situation. NIS will take the lead in this work, under the umbrella of the current UNDP project on capacity development. One useful recent example of the implementation of a 'classification' exercise was the reclassification of geographic areas as urban or rural. This work was done with technical and financial support from UNFPA.
- 50. Trust in statistics is not improved by disputes over the correct figure for a particular indicator, such as with the above examples of infant mortality and maternal mortality. These disputes should be resolved as technical issues. A single figure should then be released as the authoritative one. The Statistics Law provides a mechanism for the resolution of these issues

3.3 Skill levels and training

- 51. There has been some improvement in the quality of NIS staff over the course of the last 10 years, but there is still a long way to go before NIS can say that all its staff are qualified to carry out their functions. In 1995 not a single member of NIS had a master's degree, but by 2005 there were 12 staff who had done a course at this level (mainly in the Philippines). There were similar improvements at lower levels as well. By 2005 there were 10 staff who had obtained a diploma overseas (mostly from India) and 47 others who had done short training courses overseas (mostly in Japan).
- 52. In addition to this overseas training, the Training Unit within NIS has delivered a substantial amount of formal training at a lower level. For instance, as part of the Second Inhouse Training Programme, 15 courses were delivered, on subjects such as the national statistical system, Excel, and English. The length of these courses varied from 15 hours up to 96 hours, and so did the number of participants on each course (11 up to 56).
- 53. The NIS needs to continue upgrading the quality of its staff, especially in provincial and district offices, by providing training opportunities inside and outside the country. As

with many other statistical offices worldwide, the major weakness of the NIS is in the area of data processing and data analysis. Some care is required, however, in respect of master's courses, since there is a tendency for people with a master's degree to be attracted by work opportunities outside NIS.

- 54. Even more important than the provision of formal training is the use of on-the-job training, or 'mentoring', where the trainee works alongside an 'expert' and learns by doing. This type of arrangement can provide a valuable learning experience for trainees, but it needs to be well structured, so that the trainees themselves do all the hands-on work, and the 'expert' merely advises. There is much less value to be gained from the trainee simply watching the 'expert' perform some statistical operation. It is important for the NSS, users and donors to realise that there is a short-term trade-off between capacity building and timeliness of statistical outputs. Learning on-the-job requires time and patience by all parties. If a quick output is desired, then technical assistance can be employed, but there will be very little lasting benefit to the statistical service in terms of building capacity.
- 55. Outside the NIS, MEF and NBC have skilled statistical staff. In other ministries and institutions the statistical skills of staff are far less developed, especially in the area of environment and social statistics (e.g. education, health, justice, women's and children's affairs). There the need is often for very basic training in applied statistics.
- 56. A small survey carried out under the new UNDP project "Capacity Development: National Statistical System" has attempted to collect information about the skills and facilities available in other statistical units outside NIS. For the 31 ministries and institutions involved in collecting, producing and using statistics, there were about 230 statistical staff. Half of them were graduates, and a further quarter had a diploma or certificate. Their expressed needs for training covered mainly basic statistics, statistical analysis, and computer skills.

3.4 Constraints

- 57. A major constraint for the work of NIS, as for many if not all the statistical units in line ministries and institutions, is the relatively low level of its budget allocation from Government. The amount allocated for statistics has been increasing in recent years, but even in 2005 the government budget allocation for NIS was only USD 500,000, with an estimated USD 375,000 allocated for other statistical units. In order to achieve its work programme, NIS and other statistical units have to rely heavily on the goodwill of international donors in supporting their programmes. In 2005, international donors contributed approximately USD 1.75 million to the NIS (78 percent of the NIS budget) and around USD 0.5 million to other statistical units. The total estimated expenditure on statistical activities in 2005 is around USD 3.125 million, with donors contributing USD 2.25 million (72 percent). By comparison, the 2005 government budget allocations for statistics is USD 11 million for Vietnam, USD 15 million for Thailand, and USD 30 million for Malaysia.
- 58. This whole issue is bound up with the question of salaries for government employees. As with nearly all civil servants, those working in NIS receive only a very small salary, on average \$30 per month, and are forced to take additional outside work in order to survive. It has been suggested that this should be acknowledged explicitly, with staff being required only to work an appropriate number of hours commensurate with the amount of salary received, on the basis of one dollar for one hour's work. Those classified as falling within the Priority Mission Groups (PMG) would receive additional amounts (and work the hours

accordingly) to reflect the strategic importance of their position in the implementation of government policies and programmes. The recent introduction of the PMG is intended to address the pay problem, but this will only affect a small number of staff.

PART II: STATISTICAL MASTER PLAN

4. Outline of Statistical Master Plan

- 59. The SMP is a strategic document setting out the vision and goals for the National Statistical System. It is a map indicating where the statistical system should be going and how it will get there. It is a framework within which priorities, needs and resources can be considered against the goals and vision. Using the SMP as a management tool, statistics will be produced to meet Cambodia's stated prioritised needs. The SMP must also be a living document—referred to, monitored, reviewed and revised at regular intervals.
- 60. The **vision** has been stated in the *NIS Strategic Plan 2002–2006*. The vision is described through five principles: Relevance, Integrity, Accessibility, Professionalism and Trust. Flowing from this is a mission statement:

The mission of the National Institute of Statistics is to coordinate, collect, compile, analyze and disseminate high quality and objective official statistics to assist informed decision-making, debate and discussion within the Royal Government, provincial and commune governments, business and the media, as well as the wider Cambodian and international community.

- 61. Seven objectives follow from this:
 - 1 A coordinated and improved national statistical system for the Kingdom of Cambodia
 - 2 A NIS statistical service that is timely, relevant, responsive, and respected for its integrity and quality
 - *3 Informed and increased use of official statistics*
 - 4 An active participant in international statistical activities that are important to the Kingdom of Cambodia and Southeast Asian Region
 - An institution that encourages learning, innovation, and high performance in all its statistical activities and development
 - 6 The trust and cooperation of NIS data providers
 - 7 Strong recognition and support for the NIS amongst decision makers and the community
- 62. In terms of activities and statistical outputs, the vision for the future of statistics in Cambodia has been described in two documents:
 - Partnerships in Statistical Capacity Building for Cambodia Workshop, October 9–11, 2002 Final Report
 - Ministry of Planning, Forward Work Program of the NIS 2003–2007

63. The plans outlined in these documents are indicative. They are constrained by limited resources and an inadequate statistical capacity in the NIS and other institutions. But they are important as they show a collective view of a future of the NSS. To achieve these aspirations in a sustainable manner the NSS must become self-sufficient and not dependent on donor funding.

5. Statistical Infrastructure Programme

5.1 Legal framework

- 64. As noted above (in section 1.2), the basic legal framework is now in place, with the enactment of the Statistics Law in May 2005. Once the Sub-Decrees have all been issued, the full legal framework will be in place. These Sub-Decrees concern various issues: the dates of the next three censuses (of population, agriculture, and establishments); the operation of an integrated NSS, including the composition, role and tasks of the Statistics Advisory Council and the Statistics Coordination Committee; and designated official statistics.
- 65. The legal framework provides the enabling environment within which statistical development has the best chance of taking place. The Law provides a range of penalties, in respect of acts such as failure to provide information or breaches of confidentiality, but a well-functioning and respected statistical service should not need to invoke them. When the system is working well, data will be collected, processed, analysed and disseminated in a spirit of cooperation between all parties.
- 66. The Sub-Decrees will help to promote statistical development in Cambodia. The dates of censuses will be known well in advance, and there will be time to mobilize resources. The NIS will have a clear role at the heart of the integrated NSS, and there will be greater clarity as to which are the official statistics for the country. The Statistics Advisory Council, with membership at a high level, will guide the overall direction of the NSS, and establish priorities for statistics. The Statistics Coordination Committee will bring together key stakeholders to discuss the technical coordination of statistical activities.
- 67. In the near future NIS plans to set up a National Statistical Clearing House, with technical and financial support from SIDA and UNDP. The Clearing House will provide the mechanism through which approval can be given for national surveys and official statistics cleared for publication. In giving approval to surveys, the National Statistical Clearing House will have the opportunity to examine technical details as well as possible overlap with other work and appropriateness of timing of the survey. It will be able to impose methodological requirements, common definitions and classification schemes, thus improving the quality and comparability of data collected.

5.2 Human resources development

68. In all organizations, staff need to constantly upgrade and update their skills. In this way, people gain increased satisfaction from their work and the organisation as a whole benefits from their increased productivity. The NSS is starting from a low base. Many people, particularly those in statistical units in line ministries, need training courses in basic statistics. Even those in NIS will need regular refresher courses in some basic aspects of statistical work.

- 69. In addition to basic training, further staff training is an essential requirement if the NIS and the statistics units in line ministries are to increase their ability to deliver the products that their clients (Government, civil society, and the international community) request. For staff at headquarters this training must cover a wide range of topics including:
 - Design of surveys and other data collection systems
 - Computing skills and software packages
 - Ouality control
 - Data analysis and presentation
 - International classifications, standards and frameworks
 - Report writing skills
 - Use of statistical data in policy analysis
 - Methods of dissemination
- 70. Not every professional person working in a statistical unit needs to study every topic. For instance, of the topics itemised above, some topics (e.g. quality control, data analysis and presentation) are relevant for all professional staff. Others are probably only of relevance in detail for those directly involved in the topic, even though they may be of background interest to everyone.
- 71. Technical training in statistical topics is only part of the training needed by persons in a statistical service. Middle and senior level staff need to attend appropriate courses in order to help them perform better as leaders and managers. These courses would deal with topics such as developing leadership, people management, and project management. The need for such training is particularly important in a large organization like NIS, where senior staff need to have good leadership skills to inspire and motivate staff, as well as good management skills to cope with a complex environment.
- 72. Another important area where training is needed is in developing English-language skills. Statisticians at all levels will be able to perform much more effectively if they have a good basic grasp of English. This will enable them to make use of the wealth of statistical material (on standards, guidelines, etc.) now available on the Internet, to network with colleagues, and will mean that they can function effectively as part of the international community (through email communications, and in attending conferences and workshops overseas).
- 73. Although it is fairly clear what type of training is needed, it is very difficult to prescribe how much training is needed. Some people are fast learners, and—already equipped with a good academic education—will be able to work independently after only a few technical training courses. Others may take much longer to master the skills. Overall, an allowance of 5 to 10 percent of professional staff time is typical for training activities. This would be equivalent to up to about five weeks of full-time training each year per person. Alternatively it can be thought of as up to one full day every two weeks, or a half-day every week. Staff who are away on long full-time study courses overseas (e.g. studying for a diploma or a master's degree) should not be included in this calculation.
- 74. While most of the training will initially be given by trainers in a formal classroom situation, there is much to be gained by getting trainers to help staff apply their newfound knowledge 'on the job'. Where an outside trainer (local or international) is contracted to run an in-house training course, a few days should be set aside after the course, so that the trainer

can help the staff apply the lessons learned in the training course to their day-to-day working situation. If this is not done, there is a risk that the training will simply be seen as an academic exercise, with no direct relevance to ongoing statistical work.

- 75. In addition to formal training, whether in-country or overseas, another useful type of training activity is a visit to a statistical office in another country, to see how they deal with some statistical issue that is of particular interest. Such study tours are very useful where the NIS or another part of the National Statistical System is about to introduce some new statistics series or survey, and wants to find out how other countries are dealing with the issue.
- 76. In the case of NIS staff located in the provinces and districts, a similar volume of training should be provided, but it must be geared to the more basic nature of the work that they are expected to do. For these staff, their training should focus on their primary role in data collection activities relating to administrative data sources and NIS censuses, surveys, and prices collections, as well as on the dissemination of economic and development statistics.
- 77. The percentages of staff training time above suggest an annual estimate of perhaps 20 thousand person days of training required per year across the National Statistical System. If 40 persons attended each course, this would work out at 500 course days of teaching per year, equivalent to 100 weeks of training. Around half of this training (48 course weeks) would need to be delivered to NIS staff at the provincial and district level, and the remainder split between NIS staff at headquarters (24 course weeks) and those statistical staff working in line ministries and institutions (28 weeks). These figures imply that, if it was possible to run training continuously throughout the year, there would need to be two training courses running simultaneously. Annex 2 shows the existing donor commitments on statistical training. While there is a significant emphasis on intermediate-level training, the volume of training at the basic-level for NIS staff at the provincial and district levels needs to be increased.
- 78. Just as important as the training of existing staff is the need to ensure the recruitment of the right personnel in the first place. The NIS needs to set high standards in the quality of the staff it selects, and then manage their career development so as to give them wide experience and a challenging environment to work in. All technical statistical work in NIS will require graduate-level staff, but non-graduates may be employed in some administrative positions and as interviewers or data entry operators. For all staff, promotion should be based on merit. These human resource development issues are equally relevant to the NBC and other line ministries and institutions.

5.3 Upgrading/developing statistical operations

79. Some useful progress has been made in recent years in updating and developing statistical operations in the NSS, but there is still considerable work to be done. Some idea of the range of activities requiring attention can be gained by studying the 44 recommendations made at the Statistical Capacity Building Workshop, held in October 2002. Another important source of guidance for improvement is the information contained in the short and medium-term plans for several statistical collections, set out on the GDDS website. Unfortunately, even for such major policy areas as agriculture, education and health, financial resources are so limited that there are few opportunities for improvement. What funding there is comes almost entirely from donors.

- 80. Amongst the many items where upgrading of standards are required, the following are perhaps the most important:
 - extending urban consumer price indexes to include provinces not covered at present
 - carrying out regular producer price index surveys
 - collecting data on private sector education and health for EMIS and HMIS
 - maintaining a consistent methodology in future for the measurement of poverty
 - obtaining regular employment data for policy monitoring and for national accounts
 - setting up and maintaining a business register
 - carrying out business surveys on a regular basis
 - conducting an international investments survey
- 81. To develop these areas of statistics is likely to require an injection of external funding, which in each case should be made dependent on a specific assurance from RGC that it will take over the recurrent costs after a reasonable period of time, to an explicit timetable. Technical assistance will often be needed at the beginning to establish appropriate methodologies and to build local capacity. Once the new statistical series are well 'bedded in' donor funding should be withdrawn. Ongoing statistical work would be financed by RGC.
- 82. The operational efficiency of the NIS would be greatly improved if an Intranet was set up, so that staff at headquarters could communicate easily with each other and with the NIS staff in the provinces. The establishment of an Intranet would also greatly facilitate the transmission of data between different units.

6. Statistical Work Programme

6.1 Vision for the future

- 83. A Workshop on Partnerships in Statistical Capacity Building for Cambodia in Phnom Penh was held in October 2002. It marked the first step for the RGC towards the development of an integrated National Statistical System (NSS) based on the GDDS Framework, which the RGC adopted in January 2002. The aim of the Workshop was to provide a comprehensive overview of Cambodia's current official statistics capacity and to identify areas for further capacity building over the following six years. A total of 51 project proposals were submitted and/or discussed at the Workshop. There was no agreement reached on the relative priority of the proposals. But the proposals are important in showing the direction in which ministries, other institutions and users would like the output of the NSS to evolve in future.
- 84. The proposals and current work programmes are summarised in Annex 5. The estimated direct costs of these programmes are shown (in constant 2005 prices) over the next ten years—a total of some USD 63 million or an average of USD 6.3 million per year. After deducting current government financing of USD 875,000 a year, additional financing of USD 5.4 million a year or USD 54 million over the next ten years is required. This amount is unlikely to be found in the immediate future within either the resources of RGC, or the donor community or both together. The SMP therefore sets out a prioritised programme—restricting statistical activities to essential activities within the total resources available. The SMP also shows what developments could be made with additional resources, should it be possible to increase resources for statistics in the medium-term.

6.2 Maintaining key economic and socio-demographic statistics

- 85. Existing statistical outputs reflect the highest priorities of users in some cases and the availability of data in others.
- 86. Key areas of statistical outputs are shown in Table 1 together with an indication of the main components and the sources used. The highest priority for the NSS is to maintain the regular output of statistics in these areas. Table 1 also indicates the main sources of data used in the compilation and production of statistics in these key areas. The data needed for production of these key statistics is a clear priority. Most surveys provide both priority and less important data. If a survey is under pressure from lack of resources, the questions needed for the priority data should be retained and those needed for the less important data should be dropped.
- 87. The key outputs thus set priorities for data collection. The priority collections are:
 - Population census
 - Agricultural census
 - Establishment census

as specified in the Statistics Law and to be conducted at least every ten years;

and to conduct annually (at least) and quarterly the following:

- regular household expenditure survey
- regular employment/labour force survey
- consumer prices
- industrial production
- agricultural commodity and producer prices
- monetary and financial statistics
- international trade in services
- international investment survey

and to conduct less frequently (between 2–5 years) the following:

- demographic surveys
- health surveys
- literacy
- poverty indicators survey
- access to basic facilities.
- 88. Note that surveys of the last three items can be combined with other surveys; e.g. household expenditure, demographic or health surveys.

Table 1: Key Statistical Outputs

	Sour	rce	Comments			
	Administrative	Surveys and				
	records	Censuses				
Economic Statistics						
Real Sector Statistics						
National Accounts						
Household expenditure		•				
Government expenditure	•					
Employment and income		•				
Agricultural production	•					
Industrial production		•				
Retail sales		•				
Tourism	•	•				
Price deflators		•	Agricultural commodity, producer,			
Production indexes		•	consumer			
Prices Statistics						
Consumer Price Index (CPI)		•				
Producer Price Index (PPI)		•				
Labour Market Indicators		•	Need Province level; informal sector			
Employment		•	Treed I Tovince level, informal sector			
Unemployment		•				
Wages and earnings		•				
wages and earnings						
Fiscal Sector Statistics						
Government finance	•					
Government debt	•					
10. 10.						
Monetary and Financial Statistics	•	•				
External Sector Statistics			Also some sources above			
Balance of Payments	•	•				
Merchandise trade	•					
International trade in services	•	•				
External debt	•	•				
International investment position	•	•				
International reserves	•					
Exchange rates		•				
Social and Demographic Statistics						
Demography						
Population		•	Census and updates from surveys			
Births, deaths	•	•				
Mortality		•				
Education			Extend to private sector			
Enrolments	•		Extend to private sector			
Literacy		•				
Health	•	•	Extend to private sector			
Nutrition (e.g. underweight)		•	Extend to private sector			
Poverty measures		•				
10,01ty mousures		-				
Access to basic facilities (water,		•				
sanitation, housing)	1		İ			

6.3 Censuses and surveys

- 89. Censuses form the cornerstone of statistical work. They provide accurate estimates for small areas and allow detailed cross-classification of data not possible with sample surveys. The information collected in the census enables the NIS to construct a sampling frame from which samples for subsequent surveys can be drawn. The new Statistics Law is very specific about the timing of censuses. Article 6 states that the three categories of census (population, agriculture, and establishments) should be carried out at least once every ten years, while Article 7 states that the dates of each census shall be specified in a Sub-Decree (though the Royal Government may change the date where it deems it necessary to do so).
- 90. The *population census* is the most important of the three censuses. The last census was conducted in March 1998, and the next census should therefore take place in March 2008.² Planning for the census has already begun, and NIS has scheduled a meeting for this September to mobilise funds. Government and donors must make every effort to help ensure that the census is a success.
- 91. The question then arises as to the best timing of the other two censuses. It is most appropriate to carry out the *agricultural census* as soon <u>after</u> the population census as possible. In that way the agricultural census can benefit an up-to-date frame, given the high volatility in the agriculture sector. The agriculture census can also benefit from the information already collected in the population census. In fact, specific questions can be asked on the population census form to identify households that are engaged in agriculture. It would then be possible either to interview all those agricultural households or (in respect of those agricultural activities that occur frequently) to select a sub-sample for interview. The longer the time-lag between the two censuses, the less useful will be the population census for preparing for the agricultural census. It is therefore suggested that the country's first agricultural census should take place in the second half of 2009, with 2008 as the reference year. If data are required on the characteristics of agricultural households before that time, a special agricultural module could be added to one of the household surveys to collect it.
- 92. As noted earlier, there is an urgent need to carry out a *census of business establishments* for the whole of Cambodia. Considerable listing work will be required to set up a good frame of businesses. Close liaison between different ministries (especially with the Tax Department of MEF) will be a prerequisite for the success of this exercise. The census will be invaluable in providing aggregates (of turnover, employment, etc.) for use in preparing the national accounts. It will also provide useful information on all large agricultural businesses which (in the absence of data from an agricultural census) could be combined with data from household surveys to give estimates for the agriculture sector as a whole. It is suggested that this census of establishments could take place in the first half of 2007, with 2006 as the reference year.
- 93. It is recognised that having the three censuses in successive years will impose a substantial workload on the NIS, and may strain the financial resources of Government and the donor community. However, there is such an absence of statistical data from the business community at present that it does not seem reasonable to have to wait another five years before starting to collect good quality data in this area. With the population census fixed for

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² One possible factor that may affect the timing of the population census is the date of the next national elections, currently scheduled also for 2008, with the commune elections scheduled for 2007. The last national election was held in July 2003, and that timing meant that the inter-censal population survey (CIPS) had to be postponed until 2004.

2008, it is best to try to carry out the agricultural census as soon as possible after it. If the establishment census was not carried out in 2007, it would have to wait until 2010, and even then the three censuses would still take place in successive years.

- 94. One of the major national surveys carried out in Cambodia is the *Demographic and Health Survey (DHS)*. Most countries carry out a DHS with a frequency of between three and five years, and it is recommended that this practice be followed in Cambodia (a five yearly cycle fits well with the ten yearly cycle laid down for the three main censuses). It is essential that the communication links between NIS and the MoH be improved, in order to avoid delays in designing and implementing the survey. Another approach to obtaining the information collected by DHS would be to conduct regular surveys on health outcomes, access to services, and service delivery. This could be done by a detailed health module attached to a continuous household survey, but the sample size would need to be increased. Much of the demographic information could be collected in a similar way. Either way, the survey should be integrated into the continuous household survey programme.
- 95. In contrast, much of the information currently collected through the Socio-Economic Survey (SES) could also be collected through a continuous household survey with detailed specific modules. Each of these modules could have a lighter format than the questionnaire used for the recent 2004 SES. There are a number of benefits in conducting "lighter" surveys (those using a shorter questionnaire) from a data user perspective. For example, the survey reporting load on households is smaller and therefore the data can be processed and disseminated more quickly. By contrast, the 2004 CSES questionnaires were extensive, imposing a considerable reporting burden on households selected in the sample and, as a result, possibly impacting on data quality. The massive amount of information collected also resulted in much longer data processing times and has adversely affected the timeliness of release of the outputs. Technical support is available from SIDA for this activity over the next few years, through a twinning arrangement, but Government would need to fund the main costs of the survey or find a donor willing to do so. Using a standard basic questionnaire for the survey each year would enable Cambodia for the first time to collect data on a comparable basis from one year to another.
- 96. A major decision must be made about the way in which food expenditure data is to be collected. In the past the 'recall method' was used, where household members were asked by the interviewer to recall how much they had spent on different items. For the latest CSES both recall and diary methods were used. With the diary method, the household is asked to keep detailed records of every item they purchase, as well as details of each item of home consumption from their own paddy field and plantation or from gifts received. The recent experience with attempting to use both methods in Cambodia suggests that it is quite possible to use the diary approach, and that it tends to produce more reliable data than using the recall method.³ Technical issues of this kind need to be resolved at the technical level. The Statistics Law provides a mechanism for discussion and for decision by the NIS.

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³ The following advice from the late Chris Scott on designing a consumption questionnaire is quoted in the World Bank manual *Designing Household Survey Questionnaires for Developing Countries* (p.111): "Respondents should be interviewed several times, separated by the most accurate recall period, perhaps as little as a day. The number of interviews should be as many as are needed to cover the reference period (say, a week or two), with a bounding interview at the outset. Some or all of these interviews can be replaced by diary-keeping by the respondents themselves, by proxy recordkeepers in the household, or by interviewers who complete the diaries with the help from the respondents, an alternative that blurs the line between diary and interview procedures."

97. Carrying out one survey, or a series of surveys, on a continuous basis has several big advantages for the development of a statistics office. It ensures a continuous stream of work for the field team, so that they can build up their skills in interviewing and recording information. There is no need to recruit a new team every time a survey is to be done. The management of the statistics office can plan ahead, in the knowledge that a particular survey will go into the field at a particular time. These ideas were behind the National Household Survey Capability Programme (NHSCP), a world-wide programme which the United Nations did much to promote in the 1980s. The NHSCP envisaged a series of surveys on different topics from year to year, but in the current situation it may be more realistic to aim for a continuous survey, containing some core modules (e.g. on expenditure and employment to meet the needs of national accounts) and one or more rotating modules. The core questionnaire will be easy to process, because the same questionnaire would be used from year to year. The choice of rotating modules would reflect the data demands at the time.

Table 2: Indicative Timetable for Censuses and Household Surveys, 2006-2015

	Key policy ste	eps	Censuses		Surveys	
2006	NSDP 1 starts 2006-2010			Continuous light survey with core		2006
2007		Continuous monitoring	Census of Business Establishments	and rotating modules: Core modules		2007
2008		of the indicators	Population census	each year: Income and expenditure		2008
2009		for NSDP	Agriculture census	(summary) Employment	Expanded SES	2009
2010	Prepare NSDP 2			Rotating modules	Survey on health and demography	2010
2011	NSDP 2 starts 2011-2015			(varying from year to year):		2011
2012				Education and literacy Health		2012
2013				Agriculture Crime and safety	Inter-censal Population Survey	2013
2014	Report			Other topics (on request)	Expanded SES	2014
2015	Prepare NSDP 3				Survey on health and demography	2015

98. The ongoing SES would have a fairly small annual sample size (say 4,000 households), which would yield results only for broad geographic areas (e.g. urban/rural), but every five years or so it would be advisable to do a large-scale survey, which would have a more complete questionnaire and a much larger sample (say 15,000). In this way it would be

possible to secure benchmark poverty data, and get estimates for smaller areas such as provinces. The opportunity would also be taken to cover some of the topics that are usually covered separately in a labour force survey.

- 99. If financial support is not forthcoming for the continuous survey programme, it would be necessary to cut back on the continuity of the survey programme, and run surveys less frequently. An indicative timetable for household surveys and censuses following this pattern is shown in Table 2.
- 100. There has been some discussion about the possibility of doing a continuous labour force survey, which would provide valuable indicators for updating the quarterly national accounts. If resources allow, a continuous stand-alone *LFS* would be the best option. If resources are constrained, an alternative would be to add on a regular LFS-like module to the ongoing continuous survey and to the large-scale version conducted every five years or so.
- 101. In addition to the LFS and SES, annual Establishment Surveys need to be conducted in order to be improve the accuracy and reliability of intermediate costs, outputs and gross value added estimates for the national accounts, as well as to produce industry and sector input-output and supply-use tables. Smaller more frequent surveys of industrial and services establishments are required in order to produce production indexes, retail turnover indexes, and the quarterly national accounts estimates.
- 102. At present, price data for most items in the *Consumer Price Index (CPI)* are collected every month, with prices for food, beverages and tobacco being collected twice a month. Pricing for the CPI is at present done in Phnom Penh and five provincial centres, but the NIS would like to expand the pricing work to cover all provinces. NIS would also like to resume data collection and production of the Producer Price Index (PPI).

6.4 Maintenance of registers

- 103. While the three large census operations (population, agriculture, and business establishments) will provide valuable data at the times those censuses are undertaken, the greatest value from these censuses will come from good maintenance of their respective registers and frames. Thus, in the case of the population census, cartographic work needs to be continued between censuses, in order to keep up-to-date with geographical changes in the country. Similarly, the register of business establishments must be kept up to date, by eliminating businesses that are known to have closed down, and adding in new establishments that are set up. NIS will need to enlist the help of other ministries and key agencies for this work. With an up-to-date register, it will be possible to carry out business surveys on a regular basis.
- 104. The importance of maintaining registers is emphasized in the new Statistics Law, where it notes in Article 9 that "for the purposes of conducting economic surveys, the National Institute of Statistics of the Ministry of Planning will establish a register of businesses or population frame, to be updated and maintained on an annual basis".

6.5 Administrative sources

105. Key line ministries such as health, education and agriculture already collect information through their ongoing administrative systems. In some areas there are concerns about the quality of data collected. As the Education Management Information System

(EMIS) in the MoEYS has shown, improvements to data quality can be obtained through training, feeding information back to province and district levels, and vigilant checking. As staff become more and more familiar with the system and its operations, quality also improves. Improved quality also comes with use of the system by policymakers, statisticians and officials at province and district levels. There have been concerns about timeliness of information from administrative sources. Again, use tends to improve the timeliness of information. As mentioned earlier in section 1.2, the use of administrative data that complements survey data to produce key statistics, and a cross-agency dissemination strategy for those statistics would be important.

6.6 Developing an indicator system

106. Statistical indicators have become very prominent. Statistics for indicators have become a very important demand on statistical systems. Decisions about appropriate systems of data collection in Cambodia should take account of the needs of the NSDP and RGC economic growth and stability strategies, and in particular the requirements for monitoring progress. The list of indicators for the NSDP has not yet been finalised, but the tentative list of 66 indicators shown in Annex 3 provides a useful starting point. Although the final list of indicators may be rather different from the tentative list shown in Annex 3, it is clear that the survey programme conducted by NIS and some other ministries is likely to be a major source of data, providing information for nearly half of all the indicators. Annex 4 provides a list of key economic indicators.

107. A survey of socio-economic topics is vital for providing several money-metric indicators related to poverty and vulnerability. It is also likely to provide all the indicators on housing, water supply, and sanitation, as well as on people's access to capital and financial services. It could also be used to provide estimates of literacy, and (in the absence of a labour force survey) could provide indicators of labour force and employment. The survey of demographic and health topics is critical for many of the indicators concerning health and nutrition, with 9 of the 15 indicators coming from that source.

108. Notwithstanding the importance of the surveys conducted by NIS, some of the line ministries will also play an important role in providing indicators to monitor the NSDP. In particular, many of the education indicators come from the annual school census conducted by MoEYS. In this connection, projections based on the population census play a critical role, in providing the denominators for some of the indicators. Some of the health indicators come from MoH's health management information system (HMIS) and from their sentinel surveillance surveys. Again, accurate population estimates are needed for the denominators of many rates. There must be consistency in the denominators used in these calculations, and the NIS has responsibility for achieving this. Agricultural surveys, conducted by MAFF in association with NIS, help to provide the agricultural indicators, while collaboration between MEF, NBC and NIS leads to estimates for most of the macroeconomic indicators. Information for the CPI indicator is collected by the NIS itself.

6.7 Analysis and reports

109. The NIS has already gained considerable experience in the conduct of censuses and sample surveys, and in the associated data processing. The area now requiring special attention is analysis and report writing. It is not appropriate to rely on foreign consultants to carry out this work. The necessary skills need to be developed locally, so that Cambodians can take full control of all stages of the survey process. If it does prove necessary to employ a

foreign consultant, the consultant must be encouraged to work alongside local consultants, so that there is some skill transfer. As indicated earlier, many of the senior and middle level staff in NIS could benefit from further training in data analysis and report writing. At the same time, they need to enhance their English-language skills. Similar training should be given to staff working in statistics units in line ministries, which will improve the quality of their outputs.

110. When preparing statistical reports for public release, care must be taken to assess the likely audience for the report. For instance, in the case of the report of a statistical survey, academic and other readers with a technical background will appreciate the full analytical report, whereas many general readers amongst the public simply want to know the main findings, presented in as simple a way as possible. Efforts must be made to present reports for these latter types of readers in an attractive fashion, keeping the reports short and to the point, and making liberal use of very simple charts, graphics, and pictures.

6.8 Dissemination

- 111. The main medium of dissemination for government statistics, whether from censuses, surveys, or administrative records, has traditionally been through hard copy publications. The NIS now has an active website, and statistical outputs such as indicators are increasingly being displayed there. Other media are also being used for dissemination. CD-ROMs are one means that is used for releasing reports.
- 112. A recent development is the production by NIS of a CD-ROM containing a large collection of statistical indicators. This database, produced with the support of UNICEF and GTZ, is known as CAMInfo, and contains time series data on all the indicators used for monitoring the MDGs and the various development plans. It is regularly updated, and is presented in such a form that, with a little training, it is possible for users to produce their own graphs and charts of the results. It is expected that CAMInfo will soon be available directly online on the NIS website. The underlying platform for CAMInfo is supported internationally.
- 113. With email now being widely used, this means of dissemination is becoming increasingly used by NIS for distributing reports. It is an attractive means of distribution from the point of view of cost and timeliness, but it is advisable to have some hard copy reports, for use by the general public, libraries and others who do not have email or Internet access. For the foreseeable future, dissemination of paper copies in short popular versions will be necessary.
- 114. Dissemination and pricing policies need to be reviewed. In principle there should be free dissemination of statistical information. In practice, copies of large reports being freely available with little limitation on number of copies taken has meant that stocks run out and that copies might not reach key users. Imposing a modest charge may cut down the number of multiple copies taken and reduce frivolous demand. The number of copies of reports printed should be reviewed to reflect likely needs of users. Consideration should be given to parallel production of short popular versions of reports.
- 115. The NIS maintains a Data Users Centre, with support from UNFPA, where visitors can call in and obtain publications. Alongside the Centre is the NIS library containing a record of all key statistical publications.

- 116. Apart from the dissemination of current statistics, users need to be provided with the necessary metadata about the various statistical series, explaining the detailed methodologies used for the various statistical collections. In the case of statistics covered by the GDDS, a great deal of this information is available on the IMF GDDS website. For some series, such as the balance of payments, CPI and national accounts, special hard copy manuals have been produced, to guide the user in assessing the statistics. Similar methodological reports need to be prepared in respect of all key series of government statistics.
- There is already demand from researchers for microdata from household surveys. Microdata are the original records of the information collected, giving details of the individuals and the individual households. It is needed by researchers because many of the more extensive analyses and modelling they wish to undertake cannot be done with the aggregated information provided in the publications of survey results. This kind of use has two main benefits: more use is made of data already collected (additional value added at little further cost to the statistical system) and data quality is improved as more experts report back on their experience of the data. But access to microdata has to be done carefully and the confidentiality of the data and anonymity of the individuals and households have to be respected and preserved. The NIS should set up a policy on microdata release specifying, in particular, conditions of access, the safeguards to be imposed on the data and the researchers, what is meant by research and researchers. Only confidentialised unit record files (CURF) should be released. The NIS needs technical assistance in developing the skills to produce CURFs. Public trust in confidentiality of information provided to NIS and other data collectors must be maintained as the main priority. The NIS should also strengthen tools to preserve and disseminate such microdata.

7. Proposed Budget and Financing Plan

- 118. This section concentrates on direct costs of activities. It does not cover infrastructure costs (e.g. buildings, utilities), capital expenditure, or the cost of vehicles required for these activities. Nor does the section include the costs of senior management or other overheads. Funding for international consultants is not included in the estimates.
- 119. The projected annual(ised) costs of the Cambodia NSS are shown in Table 3. The cost figures shown are "annualised" for activities with an uneven cost profile. For example, the cost of a population census is very high in the census year, lower in the preceding and following years and lower or negligible in other years. Other large data collections have similar "lumpy" cost profiles. For these items the table shows annualised cost figures: the cost over ten years averaged over the ten years. Detailed cost figures for each year are shown in Annex 5.
- 120. Table 3 shows estimated direct costs, the likely funding from RGC, and expected funding from donors. The financing "gap" is also shown along with suggested ways of filling the gap. Annex 4 shows the detailed financing of statistical activities in the NIS, NBC and other ministries and institutions over the ten-year period of the SMP. Activities that are considered core with respect to the Government monitoring requirements, and must be funded before expanding to other areas of statistical operations are indicated as "Priority". Many of the figures vary from year to year, because some activities are not regular. For example, the yearly cost for the Population census varies from USD 5 million to zero.

- 121. The activities indicated as Priority in this table are basic activities. For the NIS, these include compilation of National Accounts (but not necessarily collection of much of the data needed); the Consumer Price Index; producer and agricultural commodity price indices; indices of agricultural and industrial production and of retail sales; labour force statistics and a labour costs index; and various censuses and surveys. For other ministries, Priority is shown for external sector statistics and surveys; fiscal sector statistics; agricultural production statistics and crops, livestock and fisheries surveys; the annual schools census and the related education management information system (MIS); and the MIS for health, labour market and tourism.
- 122. The Priority activities in the table do not include activities in ministries and institutions other than CDC, MEF, MoEYS, MoH, Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training, MoT, NBC and NIS. Many of the priority activities are not currently included in the RGC budget. In the past these activities have been externally funded by donors.
- 123. Over the ten year period of the SMP these basic high priority activities will cost USD 44.1 million, compared with the USD 62.6 million needed for existing activities plus the full list of proposals made to the Partnerships in Statistical Capacity Building in 2002. Once current government allocations and donor partner commitments for statistics are deducted, the financing gap for priority activities is USD 32.6 million over the ten year SMP period, while the financing gap for the full list of statistical activities is USD 53.9 million. Based on the assumption that the government will increase its share of the additional statistical funding by 10 percentage points per year and taking into account the existing government and donor commitment, the proportion of the additional direct costs over the period to be financed would amount to USD 15.4 million for the RGC and USD 17.2 million for donors for priority activities (see Table 3). Again assuming a 10 percent government funding increase per year, and deducing the existing government financing, for the full list of statistical activities the financing proportion would be USD 26.5 million for the RGC and USD 27.4 million for donors (see Annex 4).
- 124. The direct cost of the priority activities includes about USD 8.8 million for a Population census, and USD 3 million and USD 2 million for Agricultural and Establishment censuses respectively. About USD 12.2 million is shown for survey and demography work. This includes USD 2.7 million for demographic and health surveys, USD 2.7 million for an annual establishment survey, some USD 5.5 million for other household survey activities and USD 1.3 million for demography.
- 125. Most of these activities are essential for the basic statistical outputs identified above in Table 1. The data are used for the indicators for monitoring strategies and policies, are key inputs to the national accounts, and are the basis of poverty analyses. But currently these activities—the core data collection activities of a statistical system—are not funded.
- 126. The SMP shows the priority needs for only basic statistics and the financing gap. It does not cover all activities that would be undertaken by a fully-developed statistical system. It thus allows the Statistics Advisory Council and the NIS in the future to set further priorities in negotiation of the budget from RGC for statistics. And it also allows them to set further priorities for the use of additional external funding. The SMP shows the key priorities of the NSS. This allows statistical activities to follow the priorities of the NSS (and therefore also the priorities of the users of statistics) rather than responding to availability of funds for specific purposes. The SMP allows the NSS of Cambodia to be pro-active, rather than reactive, in the development of statistics and the statistical system itself.

- 27 -Table 3: Projected Annual(ised) Direct Costs for Priority Statistical Activities, 2006-2015 (USD in 2005 constant prices)

Ministry / Statistical Activity	Annual(ised) direct costs USD	Current government budget	Existing donor commitment (excluding int. consultant costs)	Financing Gap	Suggested additional government budget	Suggested additional donor input
RGC: Statistical governance, coordination, training, and dissemination.	340,000	82,000	112,000 UNDP, UNFPA & World Bank	146,000	73,000	73,000
NBC: BoP, Int. trade in services, Int. investment survey, monetary and financial statistics	180,000	57,000	0	123,000	61,500	61,500
MEF: foreign trade, government finance, taxation	100,000	18,000	0	82,000	41,000	41,000
CDC: NGO expenditure, investment approvals	30,000	5,000	0	25,000	12,500	12,500
NIS: Core activities: labour market indicators, national accounts, CPI and other price indices, and agriculture/industry production indices, CAMInfo, Yearbook and website, etc.	410,000	208,000	10,000 UNICEF	192,000	96,000	96,000
NIS: Censuses:	1,380,000	0	294,000	1,086,000	408,000	678,000
PopulationAgricultureEstablishment census	880,000 300,000 200,000	0 0 0	294,000 UNFPA 0 0	586,000 300,000 200,000	250,000 119,000 39,000	336,000 181,000 161,000
NIS: Survey activities and demography	1,220,000	210,000	50,000 2005/06 DHS only	960,000	505,000	455,000
MAFF: agriculture production, crops and livestock survey & fisheries survey	295,000	29,000	0	266,000	133,000	133,000
MoEYS: EMIS	170,000	14,000	32,000 UNICEF	124,000	78,000	46,000
MLVT: labour market information system	80,000	5,000	0	75,000	37,500	37,500
MoH: Health MIS and private sector survey	150,000	15,000	0	135,000	67,500	67,500
Tourism: Tourism MIS and IVS	50,000	5,000	0	45,000	22,500	22,500
TOTAL	4,405,000	648,000	498,000	3,259,000	1,535,500	1,723,500

Note: Additional statistical activities that should be implemented if adequate resources become available are included in a more detailed table in Annex 4. The overhead and indirect costs of infrastructure (e.g. buildings), utilities, Senior management, Administration, Human Resources, etc. are not included. Cost of international consultants is excluded from the donor commitment estimates. No amounts have been shown for expected donor commitments as most donors did not provide sufficient information.

8. Implementation Plan

8.1 Mechanism for implementing and updating the plan

- 127. The SMP describes statistical activities in many different ministries. The activities often involve those ministries to work in conjunction with other ministries, with inputs from donors. So the many different stakeholders will implement the SMP. The NIS, in its legal role of coordinator of the NSS, is responsible for coordination of the various component parts of the SMP. It is also responsible for regular monitoring of the SMP.
- 128. The SMP is not a static document. It must be kept under review and must be updated regularly in order to reflect changing circumstances and priorities. The timing of this review should be aligned with the annual GDDS review. The Statistics Advisory Council should be consulted in relation to any major changes to or updating of the SMP, preferably at the same time as the annual review document is presented. Minor changes, particularly the timing of surveys, may be approved by the Director-General of NIS, but should be noted by the Statistics Advisory Council at the time of the annual review. The Statistics Coordination Committee will be the forum for monitoring progress, since it is expected to meet quarterly and will include NIS and heads of other statistical units among its membership.

8.2 Monitoring and evaluation

- The SMP should be monitored and a review document should be produced 129. summarising the monitoring. The review should be a formal process and should occur at least at 12-month intervals. As the SMP is a strategic document covering all official statistics it is appropriate that this review be submitted to the Statistics Advisory Council for consideration. The review of the SMP should be prepared by the NIS with the assistance of the Statistics Coordination Committee for submission to the Statistics Advisory Council. Monitoring should cover inputs, outputs and process. Monitoring of inputs should cover RGC inputs and donor inputs. Monitoring of outputs should cover availability, timeliness, and quality of key statistics, indicators and series. Monitoring of process should take place along the lines proposed by the PARIS21 Consortium in its 2002 report, "Statistical Capacity Building Indicators (SCBI) Final Report". The summary sheet "Statistical Capacity Building Indicators" is a useful, concise monitoring tool. The 2005 "Statistics Capacity Building Indicators" for Cambodia are provided in Annex 6. Two other important frameworks that should be used in evaluating the quality of core macro-economic and socio-demographic statistics are the Data Quality Assurance Framework (DQAF) and the GDDS to which the RGC has subscribed.
- 130. Evaluation of the plan should take place after five years and after ten years. The timing of these evaluations will be synchronised with other strategic reviews (e.g. review of NSDP or of government spending plans). Some activities within the SMP will be part of donor-supported projects subject to their own evaluation processes. Such formal project evaluations should also feed into the evaluation of the SMP.

8.3 Risks

131. There are risks associated with any action plan. If they can be identified and anticipated the plan has a greater chance of success. The known risks associated with the SMP are outlined below; there may be other unidentified risks.

- Lack of commitment to and ownership of the SMP. The workshop to present the SMP in July 2005, and earlier activities, including the workshop on Partnerships in Statistical Capacity held in October 2002, are part of the consultation process aimed at commitment and ownership by stakeholders. Other regular meetings should take place in the future as an ongoing process of communication with all stakeholders. Endorsement by RGC and the Statistics Advisory Council is also important.
- Insufficient finance from RGC or donors. The SMP is dependent on the financial requirements specified in it. Because the plan has options built into it, some activities, particularly data collection, can be dropped if funding is not available. The other parts of the plan can continue, but there will be loss of statistical outputs and of the uses to which these can be put.
- Lack of effective coordination between stakeholders, i.e. between ministries, between donors, between ministries and donors. The two bodies set up under the Statistical Law, the Statistics Advisory Council and the Statistical Coordination Committee, are aimed at formal consultation and coordination. Equally important is informal consultation and coordination. It may take time to strengthen day-to-day relationships, but these will be essential for the national statistical service to operate efficiently and effectively.

8.4 Sustainability

- 132. A major problem at present is the very low salaries currently received by government staff. The present salary system is not sustainable. In the absence of action by Government to sharply increase the salaries of government employees, statistics staff will continue to depend on incentive payments from donors and on additional employment. Introduction of the new RGC Priority Mission Groups scheme in NIS is a start in addressing the issue.
- 133. The NSS, and in particular the NIS, have made considerable progress over the last 12 years in developing systems and outputs. The adoption of this SMP will pose challenges, but the NSS has met similar challenges in the past. The statistical capacity of the NIS, statistical units in line ministries and NBC needs to be further strengthened, as envisaged in the SMP. Although some doubts have been expressed about the absorptive capacity in some of these areas, the SMP programme is both realistic and manageable.

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ANNEX 2: DONORS' COMMITMENTS RELEVANT TO STATISTICAL TRAINING ⁴

Number of courses	Duration (days) of each one and whether local or international consultant	Location of training	Total number to be trained	Target group and number	Subject matter of training
	k, International Develop cost (all activities) = \$ 0.		ding Capacity in N	ational Surveys, Po	overty Analysis and Monitoring (2004-2006):
1	20	US Bureau of the Census	2	NIS DP staff	Data management, especially with CSPro
1	2 - 1 international, 2 local	PP	30	NIS Provincial staff	Data entry programs and quality checking programs
1	20	Chile or USA	2	NIS	All aspects of household socio-economic survey design
1	5 – international	PP	5	NIS	Statistical analysis with STATA, SAS or SPSS
2	2 – international	PP	2x10=20	NIS	Poverty and policy analysis related to living standards
1	2 – international	PP	5	NIS	Maintenance of database of poverty measures
-	? - international 90 – local	PP	Those trained above	NIS	On the job training
World Ban	k, Trust Fund for Statis	tical Capacity Bu	ilding (2005-2007):	Project cost (all train	ining activities) = \$ 0.1685 m
1	27	Overseas	1	NIS	Survey methods
1	20	Overseas	1	NIS	Data dissemination
1	20 – international	PP	20	NIS and line ministries	Data analysis using statistical software
5	10 - local (inc. 5 days preparation)	PP	5x30=150	NIS and line ministries	Statistical analysis / report writing
1	20 (including prep) - 1 international, 2 local	PP	30	NIS	Training of trainers - survey fieldwork and data processing
5	10 - local (inc. 5 days prep)	PP?	5x30=150	NIS, provinces and districts	Survey fieldwork and data processing
-	20 - 1 international 90 - 1 local	PP	Those trained above	NIS and line ministries	On the job training, after identifying training needs
UNDP, Caj	pacity Development: Nat	tional Statistical	System (2003-2006)	: Project total (all ac	ctivities) = \$ 1.4m
1	NA - 1 international	PP	NA	NIS and line ministries	IT Training Workshop (restructuring)
3	NA - 2 international	PP	NA	NIS Statistical Coordination Bureau	Computers, Statistics and Database Management
1	NA - 1 international	PP	NA	NIS	Computer training (for NIS website)
1	NA - 2 international	PP	NA	NIS	Statistical, dissemination, data management and computer training
1	NA – 1 international	PP	NA	NIS	Disseminating official statistics
1	NA - 1 international	PP	NA	NIS	Operations management and staff supervision
-	NA – local	PP etc.	NA	NIS	Miscellaneous training in survey operations, data from admin sources, data entry, quality control, legislation, classifications, concepts, sources and methods, IT, English language
SIDA, Supp	port to NIS for statistica	l data collection a	and poverty monito	ring (2005-2007): F	Project total cost (all activities) = \$2.5m
	No specific training det The project is concerne ICT, and subject matter with coordination and c functions.	d with CSES, statistics, also		NIS	On-the-job training Courses on specific aspects of survey methodology Study tours to Stats Sweden and to neighbouring countries

Based on information contained in a UNDP working document Mapping of Development Partners' Support to NIS for Statistical Data Collection and Poverty Monitoring, and on project documents from some donors.

No. of courses	Days	Location of training	Total number to be trained	Target group and number	Subject matter of training
UNICEF /	GTZ, Development of	CAMInfo databas	e (2002-2005): Projec	ct total cost (all activ	ities)= \$1.4m
NA	NA	PP	NA	NIS, line ministries & Technical Working Groups	Training on latest versions of CAMInfo Project likely to be extended by UNICEF.
JICA: Pro	ject for improving offic	ial statistics in Ca	mbodia, 2005-2007 (draft programme): P	roject total cost (all activities)= \$2.2m
Various	Total days over 2 years = 136	PP etc.	Level - Elementary. Each course repeated every six months	NIS, provinces, line ministries	Basic courses: Intro to official stats, stat. indicators, basic maths, elementary stats, pop and social stats, econ stats, national accounts, methodology of official surveys, using a PC, Word, Excel.
Various	Total days over 2 years = 108	PP	Level - Intermediate. Each course repeated every six months	NIS	Courses on Statistical Survey Design Stat survey design, sampling theory, sampling design, laws etc., stat. classification, quality control, preparing stat reports, Power Point, HTML
Various	Total days over 2 years = 180	РР	Level - Intermediate / Advanced. Each course repeated every six months	NIS	Courses on Statistical Data Processing Equipment for DP, EXCEL for multiple computing, ACCESS for tabulation, VBA for programming, CSPro for tabulation, SPSS for tabulation, Arc GIS for statistical cartography, Network theory, Network management
Various	Total days over 2 years = 140	PP	Level - Intermediate / advanced. Each course repeated every six months	NIS	Courses on Statistical Analysis Descriptive stats, Inferential stats, Pop and social analysis, Pop projections, Economic analysis, Economic forecasting, regional analysis

Other projects with some training component

IMF/JOCV/DFID: Multi-sector Statistical Advisory Services (2002-2004 & 2005-2006)

Includes transfer of competencies through on-the-job knowledge transfer to local counterparts, and some other training activities

UNFPA/SIDA/UNICEF/GTZ/WFP: Inter-censal Population Survey (2001-2005)

Includes in-house capacity training to NIS technical staff in technical English, communication and writing skills focused on population and gender issues, and on data collection, sampling, data processing, analysis and other demographic aspects.

USAID/UNFPA/UNICEF/ADB: Demographic and health survey (DHS) (2004-2006)

May include some training elements.

UNESCO/SIDA: Education statistics (Regular)

Training on data analysis and the use of data for education planning and management

WHO/UNICEF: Health statistics (Regular)

Some support for training on data analysis and the use of data for health planning and management

FAO/WFP/GTZ: Food security and nutritional status.

May include some training elements

ADB: Participatory Poverty Assessment (PPA) (2004-2006).

Included some training for NIS staff on qualitative data collection.

ANNEX 3: LIST OF CORE POVERTY/CMDGS MONITORING INDICATORS FOR NSDP 5

Category and Indicator	Data Source	Suggested Frequency of Data Collection
Macroeconomic indicators		
GDP growth rate at constant prices	NIS / MEF	Annual
2. Sector growth rate at constant prices (agriculture, industry, services)	NIS / MEF	Annual
3. CPI inflation	NIS	Annual
4. Total public expenditure (budget allocations)	MEF / NIS	Annual
5. Total public expenditure (actual expenditures)	MEF / NIS	Annual
 Share (%) of total public expenditure to priority sectors (budget allocations) (agriculture, health, education) 	MEF / NIS	Annual
7. Share (%) of total public expenditure to priority sectors (actual expenditures) (agriculture, health, education)	MEF / NIS	Annual
8. Investment-GDP ratio (%)	MEF / NIS	Annual
* 9. Proportion of ODA to basic social services (basic education, primary health care, nutrition, safe water and sanitation)	MEF / CDC	Annual
Labour force and employment		
10. Unemployment / underemployment rate	LFS / CSES	Annual
* 11. Unemployment rate of 15-24 year olds	LFS / CSES	Annual
12. Share (%) of total employment in agriculture	LFS / CSES	Annual
* 13. Share (%) of women in wage employment in non-agriculture sector	LFS / CSES	Annual
* 14. Proportion of working children aged 5-17 years	LFS / CSES	Annual
15. Wage rate (agricultural labourer, garment worker)	NIS / MAFF / MIME	Annual
Agriculture and food production		
16. Total / per capita production of rice	MAFF / NIS	Annual
17. Surplus milled rice	MAFF / NIS	Annual
18. Yield of rice (dry season / wet season)	MAFF / NIS	Annual
19. Fish production	MAFF / NIS	Annual
Education and literacy		
* 20. Net enrolment ratio in primary education	ASC	Annual
* 21. Net enrolment ratio in lower secondary education	ASC	Annual
* 22. Proportion of 6-14 year olds out of school	ASC	Annual
* 23. Survival rate from grade 1 to 5	ASC	Annual
* 24. Survival rate from grade 1 to 9	ASC	Annual
* 25. Literacy rate of 15-24 year olds	CSES	Every two years
* 26. Ratio of girls to boys in primary education	ASC	Annual
* 27. Ratio of girls to boys in lower secondary education	ASC	Annual
* 28. Ratio of girls to boys in upper secondary education	ASC	Annual
* 29. Ratio of literate females to males among 15-24 year olds	CSES	Every two years
Health and nutrition		
* 30. Under-five mortality rate	CDHS	Every two years
* 31. Infant mortality rate	CDHS	Every two years
* 32. Proportion of children under 1 year immunized against measles	CDHS	Every two years
* 33. Proportion of children under 1 year immunized against DPT3	CDHS	Every two years
* 34. Maternal mortality ratio	CDHS	Every two years
* 35. Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel	CDHS	Every two years
* 36. Proportion of married women using modern birth spacing methods	CDHS	Every two years
* 37. HIV prevalence rate among adults aged 15-49	HSS	Every two years
* 38. HIV prevalence rate among pregnant women aged 15-24 visiting ANC	HSS	Every two years
* 39. Malaria case fatality rate reported by public health sector	HIS	Annual
* 40. Number of malaria cases treated in the public health sector per 1,000 population.	HIS	Annual
* 41. TB death rate per 100,000 population	NTP	Annual
* 42. Prevalence of smear positive TB per 100,000 population	NTP	Annual
		Every two years
* 43. Prevalence of underweight (weight-for-age < 2 SD) children under 5 years	CDHS	Livery two years

⁵ This tentative list was prepared by the UNDP Poverty Monitoring and Analysis Adviser based in the Ministry of Planning. The list has yet to be finalised through a consultative process, probably involving the Technical Working Groups. The suggested frequencies of data collection are his suggestions. See text for further discussion.

List of Core Poverty/CMDGs Monitoring Indicators for NSDP (continued) * Shows that the indicator belongs to the CMDGs.

Category and Indicator	Data Source	Suggested Frequency of Data Collection						
Housing, water supply and sanitation								
* 45. Proportion of rural population with access to safe water source	CSES	Every two years						
* 46. Proportion of urban population with access to safe water source	CSES	Every two years						
* 47. Proportion of rural population with access to improved sanitation	CSES	Every two years						
* 48. Proportion of urban population with access to improved sanitation	CSES	Every two years						
* 49. Share (%) of households living in temporary houses	CSES	Every two years						
Environment and natural resources								
* 50. Forest coverage as a % of total area	MAFF	Annual						
* 51. Surface of protected areas	MOE / MAFF	Annual						
* 52. Percentage of land parcels having titles in both urban and rural areas	MLMUC	Annual						
Access to capital and financial services								
53. Extent of landlessness (% of rural households without land)	CSES	Every two years						
54. Share (%) of total households benefiting (and average value of benefit) from any development programme	CSES	Every two years						
55. Share (%) of total households benefiting (and average value of benefit) from any NGO-implemented development programme	CSES	Every two years						
Political empowerment of women								
* 56. Proportion of women participating in National Assembly	NEC	Every five years						
* 57. Proportion of women participating in commune councils	MOI	Every five years						
* 58. Number of reported cases of violence against women	MOI	Annual						
Poverty and vulnerability								
* 59. Proportion of population below the national poverty line	CSES	Every two years						
* 60. Share of poorest quintile in national consumption	CSES	Every two years						
* 61. Proportion of population living below the food poverty line	CSES	Every two years						
62. Poverty gap ratio	CSES	Every two years						
* 63. Annual number of civilian casualties recorded relating to mine/UXO	CMAA	Annual						
* 64. Percentage of severe/high/medium/low suspected mine/UXO Contaminated areas cleared	CMAA	Annual						
65. Share (%) of total planted area under paddy destroyed by flood	MAFF	Annual						
66. Share (%) of total planted area under paddy destroyed by drought	MAFF	Annual						

Abbreviations:

ASC	Annual School Census (EMIS, MoEYS)
CDC	Council for Development of Cambodia
CDHS	Cambodia Demographic and Health Survey
CMAA	Cambodia Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority
CSES	Cambodia Socio-Economic Survey
HIS	Health Information System (MoH)
HSS	HIV Sentinel Surveillance
LFS	Labour Force Survey
MAFF	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
MEF	Ministry of Economy and Finance
MIME	Ministry of Industry, Mine and Energy
MLMUC	Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction
MoE	Ministry of Environment
MoEYS	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports
MoH	Ministry of Health
MoI	Ministry of Interior
NBC	National Bank of Cambodia
NEC	National Election Committee
NIS	National Institute of Statistics
NTP	National Tuberculosis Programme

Annex 4: List of Key Economic Indicators ⁶

Category and Indicator	Data Source	Frequency
Real Sector		
National Accounts	NIS	Quarterly
Production Indexes		
Industrial production index	NIS	Monthly
Retail turnover index	NIS	Quarterly
Prices Statistics		-
Consumer Price Index (CPI)	NIS	Monthly
Producer Price Index (PPI)	NIS	Quarterly
Labour Market Indicators		-
Employment	NIS	Annual
Unemployment	NIS	Annual
Wages and earnings	NIS	Annual
Fiscal Sector		
Government finance	MEF	Monthly
Government debt	MEF	Quarterly
Financial Sector		
Depository Corporations Survey	NBC	Monthly
Financial Corporations Survey	NBC	Quarterly
Monetary indicators	NBC	Monthly
Interest rates	NBC	Weekly
External Sector		
Balance of Payments	NBC	Quarterly
Merchandise trade	NBC	Monthly
International trade in services	NBC	Quarterly
External debt	NBC	Quarterly
International investment position	NBC	Quarterly
International reserves	NBC	Daily
Exchange rates	NBC	Daily

⁶ This tentative list was prepared by the NIS, with IMF Multisector Statistics Advisor assistance and in consultation with MEF and NBC policy and research staff.

Annex 5: Detailed Financing of NSS Activities over 2006-2015 (in constant 2005 prices, direct costs only)

Detailed Financing of NSS Activities over 2006-2015 (in constant 2005 prices, direct costs only)

ANNEX 6: STATISTICAL CAPACITY BUILDING INDICATORS FOR CAMBODIA FOR 2005

Section A: System-wide indicators										
Resources used on statistics										
Budgetary expenditures on statistics: Current: USD 875,000 (\$500k NIS, rest \$375k) Capital: Not available										
Donor funding for statistics - Expenditures: US\$1.75 million NIS, rest US\$0.5 million Expert working days: 1,245										
Staff (number): 830 Staff turnover (%) 2.7 PC's in use for statistical work: 405 Internet access: Inadequate										
Surveys conducted during year (a monthly survey is ONE, not 12; a quarterly is ONE, not 4)										
Surveys conducted during year	r (a i	Sub-annual (number)	L, HOU		ial (number)	NE, HO	. 4)	Other (n		
Hh-ld		`								
Household surveys		None			S DHS)			3 (NIS &	(NBC)	
Other surveys 4 (NIS & NBC) 0 1 (NIS)										
Releases of statistical outputs during year (a monthly is 12 releases, a quarterly is 4 releases) Press Releases/ First Release(number) 90 Publications(number) 20 Yearbook(number) 1										
·			mber)	20 Ye	earbook(<i>numb</i>	e r) 1				
<u>Data</u> produced by broad doma	- '		ı			-		T	Γ_	
Data Produced		Ministry			ics Budget		taff	TA	Internet	
B 1.:	,	/Institution		rnme		No.	T/o%	days	access (√)	
Population	1	NIS	\$90,0		\$5,000	95	2	-	√	
Health		MOPH, NIS (DHS)	\$80,0	000	\$906,000	71	2	100	$\sqrt{}$	
Education	$\sqrt{}$	MOEYS & MLVT	\$21,0	000	\$109,000	21	2	-	$\sqrt{}$	
Household	V	NIS	\$60,0		\$406,000	30	2	300	V	
income/consumption					,					
Poverty		MOP	\$5,00	00	\$150,000	5	2	50	$\sqrt{}$	
National accounts	$\sqrt{}$	NIS	\$8,00	00	-	12	2	50	V	
Price indices	$\sqrt{}$	NIS	\$25,0	000	-	29	2	25	V	
Foreign trade	$\sqrt{}$	MEF	\$4,00		-	4	5	5	V	
Balance of payments	$\sqrt{}$	NBC	\$35,0	000	-	11	2	40	V	
Money and finance	$\sqrt{}$	NBC	\$22,000		-	6	2	10	V	
Government finance, incl. debt	$\sqrt{}$	MEF	\$14,0	000	-	11	5	40		
Agriculture, Forestry and	$\sqrt{}$	MAFF	\$29,0		\$55,000	27	2	30		
Fisheries			ĺ							
Commerce		MOC	\$30,0	000	-	20	5	-	$\sqrt{}$	
Industry		MIME	\$8,00	00	-	10	2	-	X	
Energy		MIME	\$2,00	00	-	4	2	-	X	
Communication		MOP&T	\$5,00	00	-	5	2	-	X	
Transport and Public Works		MOPW&T, CAA	\$9,00	00	-	11	2	-	X	
Tourism	$\sqrt{}$	MOT	\$5,00	00	-	5	5	-	$\sqrt{}$	
Other: Economic Statistics	$\sqrt{}$	NIS	\$80,0	000	-	130	2	290	X	
Other: Social Statistics	$\sqrt{}$	NIS	\$80,0	000	-	130	2	20	X	
Other: Investment & Aid	$\sqrt{}$	CDC	\$5,00	00	-	6	5	-	X	
Other: Public Service/Defense	V	CSS, MoD, MoFA, MNSA	\$19,0	000	-	26	5	-	X	
Other: Crime and Justice	V	MOJ & MO Interior	\$37,0	000	\$50,000	9	5	50	X	
Other: Environment	1	MOE & MOWR&M	\$10,0	000	-	10	5	-	X	
Other Economic Statistics	1	MOLMUPC, MORD, MoIn,	\$35,0	000	-	18	5	-	X	
Other Social Statistics	V	MSVA, MLVT, MCR, MWA, MCFA	\$22,0		\$80,000	20	5	200	X	
Other: Statistical Analysis/Use	X	CoM, SNEC	\$50,0	000	-	15	20	-	√	
Dissemination, coordination, governance & training	X	NIS	\$85,0	000	\$485,000	89	2	35	V	
Total			\$875	,000	\$2,246,000	830	2.7	1,245	X	
		•				•	•		•	

Section B: Data related indicators-	GDP	СРІ	BOP	MFS	GFS	Popul -ation	Poverty	Health	Educa- tion
Data related indicators-	(4: Observed; 3: Largely Observed; 2 Largely Non Observed; 1 Non Observed							served).	
0.Prerequisites:									
0.1 Collection of information and preservation of confidentiality	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
guaranteed by law and effective 0.2 Effective coordination of statistics	3	3	3	3	2	3	3	2	3
0.3 Staff level and expertise adequacy	3	3	3	3	2	3	3	2	2
0.4 Buildings and equipment adequacy	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2
0.5 Planning, monitoring and evaluation measures implemented	3	3	3	3	2	3	3	2	2
0.6 Organizational focus on quality	3	3	3	3	2	3	2	2	2
1. Integrity: 1.1 Independence of statistical operations	3	3	2	2	2	3	2	2	2
1.2 Culture of professional and ethical standards	3	3	3	3	2	3	3	2	2
2. Methodological soundness: 2.1 International/regional standards implemented	3	3	3	3	2	3	3	2	2
3. Accuracy and reliability: 3.1 Adequacy of source data	2	3	2	3	2	3	3	2	2
3.2 Response monitoring	3	3	3	3	2	3	3	2	
3.3 Validation of administrative data	3	3	2	3	3	3	2 3	2	2 2 2
3.4 Validation of intermediate and final outputs	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2
4. Serviceability:									
4.1 User consultation	4	4	3	2	2	4	3	2	2
4.2 Timeliness of statistical outputs 4.3 Periodicity of statistical outputs	3	3	3 3	3	2 2	3	2 2	2 2	3 3
5, Accessibility:									
5.1 Clarity of dissemination5.2 Updated metadata	3 3	3	3 3	3 2	2 2	3 3	2 2	2 2	2 2