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Coordinating Capacity Building Towards Open Data Initiatives for SDGs The Case of Cambodia

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Scope of presentation

- Overview of the National Statistical System of Cambodia
- Statistics in development monitoring
- Current Statistical Capacity of NSS to Compile the SDG Indicators - major issues and challenges
- Planning for an open data initiative

Overview of the National Statistical System of Cambodia (1)

- The National Statistical System (NSS): the Statistics Law 2015 (Article 4) defines the NSS as *“integrated statistics at national and sub-national level and infrastructure including all official statistical data and statistical programs; statistical organizations and statistical units within ministries and institutions of the Royal Government of Cambodia; as well as their statistical staff and other infrastructure”*
- The NSS of Cambodia is highly decentralized, consisting of 28 line ministries and institutions, including NIS are producing their own statistics

Overview of the National Statistical System of Cambodia (2)

- The currently Statistics Law (2015), covering all matter relating to collection, process, compiling, analysis, publication and dissemination of statistical data
- The Statistics Law regulates the Statistics Advisory Council (SAC) and Statistics Coordination Committee (SCC), to provide strategic policy directions and facilitate coordination and collaboration among line ministries and institutions
- It defines the role of the National Institute of Statistics (NIS) as the coordinator of the NSS
- Statistics Law and related sub-decrees set out a clear area of responsibilities and relationships between NIS and the designated statistical units of line ministries

Overview of the National Statistical System of Cambodia (3)

- Statistical Development Plan: the NSS operated under the Statistics Master Plan (SMP) from 2008-2015 and now is being formulated as NSDS 2018-2023
- The NSDS focused on activities to address the following key priority areas:
 - Maintaining key economic and socio-demographic statistics
 - Conducting and improving periodic censuses and surveys
 - Building and maintaining registers for statistical purposes
 - Improving administrative data sources
 - Developing an indicator system
 - Strengthening capacity and systems for data analysis, reporting, and dissemination
 - Coordinating the work of NIS and the Designated Statistical Units of within line ministries and for technical assistance by Development Partners
 - Considerable achievements were accomplished under the NSDS

Statistics in Development Monitoring

- The Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) Rectangular Strategy (RS) for Growth, Employment, Equity and Efficiency Phase III, and the National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP) 2014-2018 require timely and accessible good quality statistics for target setting and monitoring of progress
- Cambodia has a commitment to adopt the SDG global agenda in accordance with its national priorities formulated in the current RS of the RGC. These priorities will be integrated into the next NSDP 2019-2023
- The source of statistics is, and will be, largely the NIS and the ministries and institutions of the NSS; provincial institutions will play a large role
- However, the RGC has not yet focused on statistical development as an important national objective to meet domestic needs (as above-RS and NSDP) and the SDGs now under way

Current Statistical Capacity to Compile the SDG Indicators – the challenges

- In May 2017, the NIS with UNSD technical support has conducted assessment of the statistical capacity of NSS to compile SDG indicators and through the results of the assessment indicated that the capacity NSS of Cambodia for producing the SDG indicators was Low/Medium (33% of all applicable global indicators) due to:
 - Coordination of statistical activities within NSS is rather weak;
 - Budget allocation from the Government to support statistical activities is insufficient;
 - Most of the currently used data sources are not adequate for broadening of the scope of the indicators and achieving the required level of their disaggregation** ; and
 - High dependency on external assistance and the lack of clarity regarding the sustainability of such assistance.

** Disaggregation includes producing statistics at provincial and other local government levels.

Current Statistical Capacity to Compile the SDG Indicators – the challenges

- The main challenges/impeding factors which NSS is facing in strengthening its statistical capacity to compile the SDG indicators are:
 - Complexity and cost of obtaining more disaggregated and yet statistically significant data by statistical surveys
 - Fragmented and incomplete (to obtain national coverage) administrative data
 - Lack of clear metadata on many global indicators
 - Differences in global and national data collection priorities

Planning for an Open Data Initiative

- Develop a national implementation plan for SDG measuring and data collection frameworks and integrated into NSDS
- Promote the institutional arrangements and national coordination mechanisms to ensure that the NIS works closely with other members of the NSS
- The needs for develop and publish dissemination plan/strategy and data/information sharing policy, including ICT policy
- Mobilize additional resources and work to ensure a swift and effective assistance by the development partners for compilation of the SDG indicators
- Upgrade the NIS website to become a reliable and timely means for disseminating data and a wide range of up-to-date data and to ensure that full compliance with the IMF GDDS

Planning for an Open Data Initiative

- Need to ensure that statistical staff of line ministries receive the full effective transfer of skills, capacity, technology from development partners through their projects and improved arrangements for coordination of assistance from the development partners
- Promote data users-producers forum of both national and sub-national level
- Promote advocacy and implement PARIS21 Advanced Data Planning Tool (ADAPT) for estimating the cost of undertaking data collection operations, costing SDG indicators and assessing data gaps
- Physical/statistical infrastructure and ICT development by adopting new open data platform or GSBPM and seeking for technical assistance and training support from development partners

Thank you!