

Cambodian Country Report on Social Protection and Disabilities

2nd ASEAN GO-NGO Forum
Hanoi, Vietnam, 3rd December 2007

I- Basic Indicators

No	Indicator (s)	Data	Year
1	Area (in 1,000sq.km)	181,035	
2	Population by age group and by sex :		2004
	a- Total	13,091,000	1998
	b- Age 1-14 (%)	- Male 21.8 - Female 21	-
	c- Age 15-64 (%)	- Male 24.9 - Female 28.8	-
	d- Age 65 and over (%)	- Male 1.4 - Female 2.1	-
3	Total families	2,530,000	2004
4	Urban population (%)	15.7	1998
5	Rate of national increase of population (% per annum)	2.49	1998
6	Birth rate (per 1,000population)	38	1998
7	Total fertility rate	5.2	1998
8	Death rate (per 1,000 population)	12	1998
9	Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live birth)	80	1998
10	Life expectancy at birth :		
	a- Total	56.35	1998
	b- Male	54.40	1998
	c- Female	58.30	1998
11	Per capital annual income (US\$ / person)	268	1999
12	Average number of members in a household	5.2	1998
13	Ratio of fatherless and motherless families to the total (%)	10.8	1998
14	Average age of first marriage	23.5	1998
15	Divorce rate (per 1,000 population)	0.42	1998
16	Ratio of female in the labor force to the total labor force (%)	58.4	1998
17	Annual total working hours	3,224 hours	1997
18	Ratio of social security benefit expenses to national income (million Riels)	26,900	2000
19	Number of disabled people :	169,058	1999
	a- Male	99,506	
	b- Female	69,552	
20	Number of disabled people by category : a- physically disabled people	97,585	1999

	b- blind	19,453	1999
	c- deaf	12,013	-
	d- mentally retarded people	12,576	-
	e- others	27,431	-
21	Number school for disabled children by type : a- school for blind b- school for ...	2	2001
22	Number of Social Welfare institution by type : 1. Directorate General of Technical Affaires Social Welfare Department Rehabilitation Department Child Welfare Department Youth Development Department Veterans Affairs Department Veterans Development Department 2. Provincial Directorate of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation 3. District Office of Social Affairs, Veterans Youth Rehabilitation	1 1 1 1 1 1 24 183	2000 - - - - - - - -

Source: Population Census 1998 of Ministry of planning.

II- Government Organization

A- Description

The field of social affairs, veterans, and youth rehabilitation in Cambodia is the main parts of social affair policy of the Royal Government for setting up public services in order to help the venerable in society and to establish social safety system for former public servants, veterans and general population. Emergency relief aid programs including food delivery and assistance for victim of fire, drought, flooding, and the hungered poor contributed to prevent miserable and inflow of vagabonds into cities and towns. The fight against prostitution has been subsequently carried out, victims of human trafficking have been saved, provided education and health care and services without discrimination. Pension scheme for public servants have been improved to fit the revised public servant salary. The celebration of elderly day and the organizing of ageing association in community have helped old age people to be stable.

The four fundamental child rights have been well soaked in community through many programs of the government and non-government organizations. A five-year national plan against trafficking, child sexual exploitation has been being implemented and achieved fruitfully. The program on elimination of child labor and child protection network in community is also increased in activities. The collection of children-minors who behave badly and drug abuse for providing health services, moral and general knowledge education, vocational training and integration into community, child and minor education in community on bad behavior and effect of drug abuse, have been subsequently implemented.

The target of veterans, persons with disabilities, retirees, incapability families, and the dead have received the assistance scheme from the government. The support provide of many kind has been gradually improved and to subsequently eliminate the inactivity. The families of veteran, demobilized soldiers have received great attention for development and improve living conditions.

All types of persons with disability consist of 2% of the total population, approximately 169,058 persons (Collected by National Institution of Statistics of Cambodia in 1999) in which 93% are male and 60% disabled by war. The dissemination of rights of persons with disability is successful and services for persons with disability have been subsequently prepared. National facilitation mechanism, regulation making, draft law on the protection and promotion of the rights of persons with disability and guideline principles on rehabilitation services and integration have been actively operated. Many persons with disabilities have received training in the centers and get jobs.

The institutional capacity building, public servants training in the field of social affairs have been subsequently conducted to create qualified human resources for continuing to carry out tasks that assigned for coming time. Social affairs issue which is previously received less attention, now becomes the important issue in society and is being received more attention from various milieu. Partnership with donors and non-government organizations is the indispensable factor in providing social affairs services.

Social affairs issue is a serious task for all nations regardless developed or developing. Social affairs issue in Cambodia is a burden for the Royal Government. Main challenges including 2.4% annual population increase, 36% people live under the poverty line in which in this percentage the rate of people live nearest the food security line is 20%. Most of the poor live in rural area and work as farmers-facing natural and other disasters every year and some of the people emigrate to towns and cities.

The rate of orphan and abandoned infants are increasing. It is estimated that in 2010, the rate of orphan will be at 7.8% of the total children. Orphans by AIDS might be 27.5%. Badly behaved and drug abuse children notably increase year by year and pose a concern.

The remnant of war, landmine accident, traffic accident, disease and biological disability cause the increase of people with disability up to 2% of the total population (1999) in which most of them have poor living conditions. Training and job placement services for persons with disability are limited.

The number of vagabonds caused by various factors increase though, so far, we have operated with local and international organizations to collect the vagabonds in towns to provide education and vocational training and integrate into community.

Seniors aged over 65 consist of 3.5% of the total population. Redevelopment of safety net for elderly is an utmost necessity in order to ensure present and future welfare.

The organization of social safety system for former public servants, soldiers, the poor and vulnerable require a reform in order to fit the national economic development.

The continuous good governance strengthen, institutional human resource building, partnership with non-governmental organizations and donors are the everlasting factors for continuing the work of the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation at present as well as in the future.

B- Social Protection

Based on the above description and situation, important action programs 2004-2008 of social affairs, veterans and youth rehabilitation issues need assemble for well implementation on policy programs for the Royal Government in third term are:

- To increase intervention in the field of social affairs by strengthening the cooperation between national and international organizations for promoting work opportunity, the reduction of vulnerability of the poor. To increase emergency relief in order to help people affected by natural and other disasters and to increase rehabilitation programs for persons with disability, veterans and their families and to continue closely supporting persons with disability and families of soldiers who sacrificed for Nation.
- To continue promoting the exercise of the four fundamental child rights fit the United Nation Convention on the rights of child.
- To further consolidate activities of Cambodian National Council for Children, increase child protection such as orphans, disabled children and children of poor family in community.
- To lay down all necessary measures for preventing suppression and exploitation in all forms on children, illegal employed of child labor, child prostitution, child trafficking and pornographic and immoral act on children in community. These works shall go along with child education work, law enforcement, rehabilitation and vocational training for children in order for them to become good citizen in community.

According to the Rectangular Strategic of the Royal Government in fourth angle, third rectangle on the organization of social safety system and fourth angle of fourth rectangle on the implementation of population policy, the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation has put out the six priority work (2004-2008) as follows:

1- Enlarging social affairs services and emergency relief aid

The targets are people affected by various disasters, the poor, the miserable, the vagabonds, beggars, victims of human trafficking and AIDS. In order to enlarge social services and emergency relief aid, MoSVY has implemented the work plans as below:

- To make policy and regulation in securing social affairs services for the target and to prepare mechanism for implementing, drafting law on welfare services for poor family.
- To operate social affair centers.
- To promote community and family role.
- To increase the responsibility at local level.
- To celebrate international family's day 15 may.
- To participate implement the program on social concession land.
- To participate fight against all forms of human trafficking.

2- Child Welfare and Youth Rehabilitation

The targets are people under 18 years-old including abandoned infants, orphans, disabled children, street children, and children of trafficking, misconduct and drug abuse minors. MoSVY's work plan to be implemented:

- To continue disseminating exercise child rights.
- To make law and regulation concerning the exercise child rights, inter-country adoption law, justice law and juvenile court.
- To combat against child labor, child trafficking, take measures to punish violator.
- To continue enlarging child protection net work in community.
- To improve the allowance for orphans and orphaned in orphanage centers.
- To continue implementing inter-country adoption according to procedure in place.
- To consolidate the government and non-government organization orphanages and the juvenile correctional centers.
- To make, implement maximum standard of alternative child care.
- To campaign against drug abuse.
- To inspect child raise and care.

- To develop assistance program for orphans and children affected by AIDS.
- To consolidate Cambodian National Council for Children (CNCC).
- To celebrate International Children's day 1 June every year.

3- Disability and Rehabilitation Issues

The targets are persons with disabilities. MoSVY's work plans to be implemented:

- To make law on the protection and promotion the rights of persons with disability.
- To implement policies for persons with disability.
- To strengthen rehabilitation centers.
- To provide vocational training, jobs and job offering for persons with disability.
- To consolidate community development strategy for persons with disability.
- To make accessible with the construction environment and relation for persons with disability.
- To consolidate movement of persons with disability's sport.
- To celebrate International Persons with Disability's Day 3 December.
- To consolidate Disability Action Council (DAC).

4- Retirement Pension for Public Servants

The targets are former civil servants and national police and the elderly. MoSVY's work plans to be implemented:

- To make law on National Pension Case.
- To strengthen the implementation on retirement pension scheme and incapability scheme.
- To computerize target data.
- To organize and support elder association.
- To celebrate International Elderly Day 1 October.
- To continue implementing elderly policy.
- To arrange and implement social insurance scheme for civil servants.
- To research on social security system for people who are uncovered.

5- Veterans

The targets are veterans of the Royal Arm Forces, national police, civil servants, communal militias and people who participate in fighting for the first cause of nation. MoSVY's work plans to be implemented:

- To draft law on the policy implementation for veterans.
- To pay veteran allowances direct and on time.
- To eliminate the buying, selling of allowances.
- To eliminate the exploitation of allowances.
- To computerize veteran data.
- To establish National Veteran Case.
- To organize national council and veteran association.
- To develop family economy of veteran in community.
- To follow up demobilized soldier integration in community.

6- Good Governance

The targets are leadership, ministry's official, local and international organizations. MoSVY's work plans for implementing:

- To develop strategic plan, priority for each field for long and medium term.
- To build capacity for leading officials at bureau level and to conduct intensive training.
- To enlarge supplement scheme for local officials.
- To continue integrating official position into new scheme system.

- To transparently administer public finance, public property, and public bidding.
- To design central and local administration buildings construction into the Public Investment Project.
- To appeal for financial, technical and humanitarian assistances.
- To continue cooperation with local and international non-government organizations, to strengthen the implementation of the agreement and project evaluation.
- To strengthen partnership with ASEAN nations and international community.
- To strengthen internal inspection, control the implementation of law, regulation, internal rules, to fight against corruption and inactivity.

C- Social Protection for Persons with Disability

1- Basic laws

- *The Constitution*: of 1993 (amended in 1999) which is the highest Law of the Kingdom of Cambodia contains article of legal rights and benefits of every citizen.
- *Labor Law*: It is important law to manage contractual agreement between employees and employers.

2- Related law / regulations / proclamations / decisions on rehabilitation

- Sub-Decree dated April 8, 2005 to prepare guideline and policies to protect and support People with disabilities;
- Ministerial Decision (Prakas) dated January 10, 1992 to implement declaration of organizational structure of rehabilitation for People with disabilities;
- Ministerial Decision (Prakas) dated May 10, 1997 to establish of the National Center for Disabled Persons (NCDP) with main responsibility to coordinate for providing rehabilitation services, job placement, and referral services;
- Ministerial Decision (Prakas) dated October 26, 1999 to establish of the Disability Action Council (DAC) as a National Semi-autonomous Coordinating Body on Disability and Rehabilitation;
- Ministerial Regulation (Prakas) dated January 28, 2000 to organize, Role and Function of Municipal/Provincial SALVY to provide rehabilitation services to People with disabilities;
- Ministerial Decision (Prakas) dated August 28, 2000 to establish a Working Group on Draft Legislation to Protect the Right of People with disabilities;
- Ministerial Decision (Prakas) dated October 03, 2002 to establish of the Kien Khleang, National Rehabilitation Center for People with disabilities;
- Ministerial Decision (Prakas) No 174 MoSALVY dated May 12, 2001 on the Creation Orthopedic Component Factory;
- Ministerial Decision (Prakas) No 175 MoSALVY dated May 12, 2000 on the Creation of Physical Therapy Center of Phnom Penh;
- Full Participation and Equality of People with Disability in the Asian and Pacific Region;
- The Directive Prakas No 10 NNAV.CT dated January 10, 1992 on Organizational Structure of Rehabilitation.
- The Decision No 181 SSR dated December 20, 1990 on the Guideline of Rehabilitation, of Vocational Training and Job Placement for People With Disability;
- The Directive Prakas No 02 BR.K.N.SKP on the implementation the Decision No 181 SSR, dated December 20, 1990 of the Council of Ministers;
- The Prakas No 88 MoSALVY dated April 24, 2001 on the Creation of Battambang Regional Physical Rehabilitation Center;
- The Prakas No 339 MoSALVY dated July 25, 2003 on the Creation of Phnom Penh Component Factory;

- The Prakas No 006 MoSVY dated January 05, 2005 on the Creation of Kampong Speu Regional Physical Rehabilitation Center;

3- Policy and the rehabilitation for Persons with Disabilities

a) Policy of Government:

In the spirit of Rectangular Strategy of the Royal Government of Cambodia enhanced cooperation with national and international organizations. The Royal Government increased its social sector interventions to reduce discrimination to the People with disabilities (People with disabilities), and expended vocational rehabilitation programs for People with disabilities for improving their living conditions, and to lead dignified lives free of discrimination.

Cambodia, at present time, doesn't have the law on the rights of persons with disability yet, plus the participation from the community in the area of disabilities is still limited. In order to ensure that the disabled people will have the right to full and equal participation in various activities, the MoSVY is paying attention to pushing the enactment of the draft law on the protection and promotion the rights of the persons with disability as soon as possible in order to help People with disabilities receive their basic rights.

Recently, Cambodia has sign as signatory country on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability and its optional protocol

b) National Coordination body

The Royal Government of Cambodia has provided mandate to Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation (MoSVY) with a mission to manage and oversee vocational rehabilitation programs and services for people with disabilities. And MoSVY has set up Disability Action Council (DAC) as a semi-autonomous national coordination body made up of representatives from Government of Cambodia, international and national NGOs and individuals committed to working for the well being of people with disabilities in Cambodia. The DAC acts in a professional advisory capacity in relation to government and policy makers on all issues affecting the life of people with disabilities. It also serves, as national focal point on disability matters in facilitating and co-coordinating the continuous evolution of a comprehensive national approach to rehabilitation, equalization and opportunities of people with disabilities in Cambodia

According to the Action Guideline of UNESCAP called Biwako Millennium Framework (BMF, 2003 to 2012) and based on the rectangular strategic plan of the 3rd mandate of the Royal Government, the MoSVY has been put out the six point's strategic plan on disability and rehabilitation issues as follows:

1. Pay attention to promote the basic rights of People with disabilities by settling the disability issues to protect People with disabilities' benefit, eliminate consecutively the discrimination and give opportunity to People with disabilities to attend to all activities in the society such as political activity, economy, social affairs, and culture and ensure that the disability has been put in the national development program until the grass root level. Improve the law passage on the rights of People with disabilities in order to enhance the disabled rights protection mechanism such as Cambodian Disabled Action Council reforming, integrate the rights of the disabled into the duty of Human Rights National Committee when this institution is formed.
2. Reinforce and extend the self help group of People with disabilities in cooperation with related organization to construct self help group for both quantity and quality to join the implementation of poverty alleviation program of the Royal Government effectively at rural community and the public. Assist CDPO to become a real organization which

representative of disabled voice in rights protection and benefit of People with disabilities.

3. Extend the empowerment of People with disabilities by implementing community based development strategy in good manner and proper to the economic environment and social of our country. The community based development strategy is to vanquish the causes of disabilities, education, treatment, rehabilitation (vocational, physical, medical), help People with disabilities at rural areas to obtain the proper services. Build capacity of People with disabilities to enable them to use their existing abilities to live independently.
4. Extend the vocational training program in provinces with the skills suitable to the market requirement at the existing vocational training center and set up the additional vocational training center to answer the requirement of People with disabilities. Integrate disabilities into the vocational training program of the state and the private education system. Encourage the employer to accept People with disabilities to work in the factory, enterprise, company. Commence the government institutions as the example in accepting People with disabilities to work. Support and encourage People with disabilities in setting up and managing the collective handicraft or private and loan program.
5. Ensure the sustainability of physical rehabilitation services to provide the physical supporting include providing artificial limb as well as physiotherapy treatment services to People with disabilities as their requirement. Organize the national, regional and provincial rehabilitation system to facilitate to People with disabilities to access the services.
6. Pay attention to extend and reinforce the public accessibility to state and private sector. Lobby the relevant ministries to concern of accessibility for People with disabilities at the new or existing public building and other public ways. Lobby the relevant agencies to integrate the principle for designing program into the vocational education at the construction faculties and industries. Develop the sign language for the deaf people and brail letters for the blind people to facilitate in communication with each other at the community.

c) Rehabilitation

The MoSVY has closely cooperated with NGOs to create 17 rehabilitation centers in provinces. They are:

- 11 physical rehabilitation centers to produce artificial limbs and wheel chair
- Medical rehabilitation center at 4 places
- One factory to produce components for artificial limbs for distribution to all physical rehabilitation centers.
- One school to train technician of prosthesis at Calmet's Hospital in Phnom Penh

The MoSVY has cooperated closely with the NGOs to create 8 vocational training centers. In the Past, the Ministry helped people to get jobs by using 3 methods:

- Requesting the government institution to accept disabled people to work at their places
- Asking the factories and other private companies, and NOGs to provide employment opportunities to disabled people.
- Facilitating the disabled people to set up handicraft so that they can get some income, and helping them to set up small business in the community where they are living.

The Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans, and Youth Rehabilitation have improved the role and task of physical rehabilitation of the MoSVY at the local branches in order to:

- Help to look after the livelihood and health care of People with disabilities.
- Assist with the integration of children into schools

- Help disabled people with job placement and skills training in accordance with their ability
- Help the disabled people to receive rehabilitation and medical care.

Cambodia, at present time, doesn't have the law on the rights of persons with disability yet, plus the participation from the community in the area of disabilities is still limited. In order to ensure that the disabled people will have the right to full and equal participation in various activities, the MoSVY is paying attention to pushing the enactment of the draft law on the protection and promotion the rights of the persons with disability as soon as possible in order to help People with disabilities receive their basic rights.

Recently, Cambodia has sign as signatory country on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability and its optional protocol.

d) Expanding work on mental rehabilitation of People with disabilities through arts and sport activities

The MoSVY has a goal to expand works on mental rehabilitation for People with disabilities through arts and sports with an attempt to help them build hope for themselves and show to the community the abilities of People with disabilities rather than just look at their disabilities. They will also be helped to promote and expand friendship, and to raise public awareness within the community in order to eliminate discrimination toward People with disabilities.

In order to reach this goal, the Ministry has cooperated with some NGOs to:

- Organized the Disabled People Day every year
- Organized the Disabled International Day every year
- Organized Disabled people into artistic groups to play music and perform concerts etc...

e) Creating job opportunities for persons with disability

The Ministry of Social Affair, Veterans, and Youth Rehabilitation will do whatever it can to help the People with disabilities get jobs so that they can earn some income to:

- Support their living in the family and join in building the country
- Create a proper environment so that they can live independently
- Improve their dignity so that they can become the good member for the society

In order to accomplish that goal, the MoSVY has had the following measures:

- Expanding the vocational training center to train the People with disabilities appropriate skill
- Encouraging the People with disabilities to establish their own handicraft shops and agricultural base
- Encouraging the government institution to accept the People with disabilities to work
- Encouraging private company, enterprise and factory to hire People with disabilities to work there according to their abilities

f) Vocational Training at public vocational training centers.

The Technical, Vocational Education and Training (TVET) system in Cambodia is under Department of Technical, Vocational Education and Training of Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MoEYS). This department has the overall lead for vocational and skills training at the policy level. This vocational and skill training system is for All, which included people with disabilities. Before through this system People with disabilities are rarely to access, because majority of Cambodian with disabilities have very little education, and it has no accessibility, no provision for people with disability such as curricula for deaf, blind and mentally retarded, etc.

g) Measures taken for employment in the private sectors.

Presently, Cambodia has no employment quota system in public as well as private sectors for People with disabilities. In this case MoSVY that is an in charge Body for People with disabilities help them to get jobs by using three methods:

- Requesting the government institutions to accept people with disabilities to work at their places;
- Asking the factories, private companies, business enterprises and NGOs to provide some suitable job placement to People with disabilities for working in their units;
- Facilitating the persons with disabilities to set up small business in the community where they are living.

h) Measures taken by NGOs, Charity organizations, religious associations

There are many NGOs concerning to the field of vocational training and job placement promotion for People with disabilities in cooperation with government ministries. The Vocational Training, Job Placement, and Income Generation Committee were set up as part of the DAC.

The National Center of Disabled Person (NCDP) is a semi-autonomous entity tasked by Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation to provide resources to people with disabilities organizations working on disability issues in order to promote the full participation of People with disabilities in social and economic activities of Cambodian society. It also aids in the development of programs, services and policies for People with disabilities. Through the collaboration work of NCDP's Information Referral Service project and The Business Advisory Council (BAC), 494 job placements in various companies were attained successfully so far.

The Business Advisory Council (BAC) is a group of representatives of employers and other business sector leaders who are interested in promoting greater employment opportunities for Landmine survivors and others with disabilities in Cambodia. The BAC works with a number of non-profit organizations that serve or advocate for the people with disabilities. BAC members advise these organizations with regard to job openings, labour market needs, training opportunities in industry, work experience opportunity and other matters aimed at increasing the employability of People with disabilities who are seeking job opportunities. The BAC provides advice on job training and employment readiness training to service providers. In turn, these services and advocacy organizations help to develop candidates for jobs in industry who are qualified for openings that exist.

4- Issues to be addressed

Issues concerning policy, strategy, system, and other measures

In order to carry out the Government Strategic Plan for People with disabilities, and the dispositions mentioned in the Action Guideline of UNESCAP (2003-2012) on the Seven Priority Areas in the Biwako Millennium Framework, the MoSVY has set up objectives for the rehabilitation, vocational training and employment for People with disabilities which includes some points as follows:

- The implementation of the law on the protection and promotion the rights of persons with disabilities.

As described above, at present time, *Cambodia has no specific incentive, quota system or legislative instruments promoting the employment for people with disabilities. So it is very difficult to force/urge private sectors to accept the People with disabilities to work in their units.* In order to ensure that the People with disabilities will have the right to full equal participation in various activities, the MoSVY is paying attention to pushing the adoption process of *the draft legislation on "The Protection and Promotion the Right of People with disabilities"*, and we hope that it will be enacted in the mandate of National Assembly (2004-2008). This draft law aims to promote integration of People with disabilities into mainstream development programs/activities, which includes health, education, accessibility, vocational training, employment, etc. to ensure the

protection and promotion of the rights of all People with disabilities, and prohibition of abuse and neglect of these People with disabilities and discrimination against them.

- Survey data about persons with disabilities

At present, the MoSVY doesn't have enough data information of People with disabilities for use for the development of various work plans. The purpose to obtain the data about needs of the disabled people is very necessary in order to let every People with disabilities to receive services at each place. In order to accomplish the above goal, the MoSVY will instruct all provincial offices of SVY to conduct a survey to get data about the obvious needs of People with disabilities:

- Collect statistic of all types of the disabled people;
- Obtain the personal information of the disabled people;
- Understand about the living condition of the disabled people;
- Understand the educational needs of the disabled people;
- Know the employment and income generation of the disabled people;
- Know the physical and medical rehabilitation situations and various needs of the People with disabilities.

- Creating job opportunities for persons with disabilities

The MoSVY will do whatever it can to help the persons with disabilities to get jobs so that they can earn some income to:

- Support their living in the family and join in building the country;
- Create a proper environment so that they can live independently;
- Improve their dignity so that they can become the good members for the society.
- In order to accomplish that goal, the MoSVY has had the measures as follows:
 - Expanding the vocational training center to train the People with disabilities appropriate skill;
 - Encouraging the People with disabilities to establish their own handicraft shops and agricultural base;
 - Encouraging the government institutions to accept the People with disabilities to work;
 - Encouraging private companies, enterprises and factories to hire People with disabilities to work there according to their abilities.

- Insurance the sustainability for physical rehabilitation centers

The physical rehabilitation centers are supported by INGOs with some contributions from MoSVY. In order to insure the sustainability of these PRCs when some INGOs phase-out their activities or hand-over the roles and responsibilities to MoSVY, the MoSVY has prepared the strategic plan to take-over the roles and responsibilities from INGOs as follows:

- Preparing and strengthening the management structure for all PRCs.
- Build capacity of MoSVY's staffs at all levels related to disability and rehabilitation especially at the PRCs.
- Taking-over step by step some roles and responsibilities on PRCs from INGOs that want to hand-over their activities when they phasing-out.
- Participating step by step in providing fund for services at PRCs.
- Study the gross expenses of each PRC so that the MoSVY can have enough information for the development of funding proposals to support.

- Strengthening and sustainability on CBR

The Community-Based Rehabilitation in Cambodia is being running and supporting by NGOs. The implementation of the CBR activities is various from NGO to NGO according to its own concept, it has no National Guideline for all. The CBR of NGOs is doing base on the funding from donor, if there are no fund, CBR activities can not assure the sustainability. In order to strengthen

and insure the sustainability of CBR activities, the MoSVY has prepared the strategic plan as follows:

- Strengthening the existing National Community-Based Rehabilitation Coordination in order to become the National Coordination Mechanism for CBR.
- Improving the CBR Monitoring Guideline for monitoring and evaluation CBR project.
- Preparing the CBR Guideline.
- Preparing the Provincial Coordination Mechanism for CBR.
- Preparing the strategic plan in taking-over CBR activities by MoSVY/PoSVY from some NGOs that want to hand-over their CBR activities.

- Managing and creating sustainability for vocational training centers

The Ministry still needs these supports at present time and in the future. At the same time, the Ministry is thinking about how to take over the management tasks from NGOs when they leave or end their programs in Cambodia. In order to insure a proper management and sustainability for the vocational training centers, the MoSVY has prepared the following strategies:

- Making the unofficial staffs to become the contracted ones of the ministry.
- Participating step by step in providing fund for services at the Centers.
- Knowing the gross expenses of each Center so that the MoSVY can have enough information for the development of funding proposals to support them.

5- Social recognition

Often attitudes in Cambodia to the persons with disabilities are negative. The disabled tend to have fewer opportunities and to receive poorer education than the non-disabled. Many in Cambodia feel that disability is a sign of bad past life, and the disabled persons thus not deserving of any special consideration.

Therefore, the MoSVY has a goal to expand works on mental rehabilitation for the People with disabilities through arts and sports with an attempt to help them build hope for themselves and show to the community the abilities of the People with disabilities rather than just look at their disabilities. They will also be helped to promote and expand friendship, and to raise public awareness within the community in order to eliminate discrimination toward disabled people.

In order to reach this goal, the MoSVY has cooperated with some NGOs to celebrate many events:

- Organize the Cambodian Disabled People Day every year;
- Organize the International Day for Disabled People every year;
- Organize People with disabilities into artistic groups to play music and perform concerts in many important National Events;
- Organize the Disabled People Sport Day every year.
- Organize the Deaf Day for Persons with Deaf every year.

III- NGOs

1- Introduction

The work of NGOs and civil society organizations (CSOs) in Cambodia spans a broad range of development issues and involves close engagement with Cambodians of all walks of life and socioeconomic status. The common ground of our organizations is the shared objective of advancing the position of poor and vulnerable groups in Cambodian society. Through our combined knowledge of the grassroots, civil society is well placed to assist the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) in its policymaking by sharing and providing valuable feedback and suggestions regarding development policy and implementation.

As in previous years, the NGO community has produced sectoral and issues papers on topics ranging from agriculture to good governance, to be submitted to the annual high level Government-Donor meeting. This year, the NGO community has brought together 23 sectoral and issues papers including **Disability and NSDP in Cambodia**, prepared by sectoral NGOs/groups with contributions from individual NGOs.

In January 2007, sectoral NGOs/groups gathered to discuss the preparation of the statement. The groups suggested that the 2007 NGO Position Papers should focus on the monitoring of the joint monitoring indicators (JMIs) and implementation of the National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP) 2006-2010. Each sector paper provides analysis on the implementation of JMIs, the NSDP and other key issues not covered by the JMIs or the NSDP, based on observation. They also provide recommendations and some case studies so as to be able to reflect on real events happening at ground level. These papers present NGOs' view regarding the current situation of Cambodia's development, with the aim of providing constructive feedback on progress made on the implementation of the NSDP and JMIs in 2006. This publication served as the background document to the "NGO Statement to the 2007

CDCF" which has been published as a separate document and will be submitted, together with this document, to the Cambodia Development Cooperation Forum (CDCF) meeting.

The NGO Statement to the 2007 CDCF identifies three priority issues – good governance, human development and agriculture and natural resource management – where implementation of appropriate policies and reform programs has the potential to improve the lives of millions of poor and vulnerable Cambodians. Most of these policies and reform programs are described or referred to in the NSDP 2006-2010.

2- Disability and NSDP in Cambodia

The National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP) 2006-2010 is Cambodia's second PRSP (Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper). The Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) considers the NSDP as the single, overarching development strategy for pursuing prioritized goals and actions for the period 2006-2010. Although many stakeholders have participated in both national PRSP processes, a number of negative aspects for people with disabilities have posed critical questions about these processes. The PRSP approach is expected to be country-driven, fostered by domestic and external partnerships and based on broad consultation of all layers of society, including the poor themselves. Participation of the poor is sought at all stages of the PRSP process: formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. In low-income countries, persons with disabilities belong to the poorest of the poor. The PRSP process, therefore, is a unique opportunity to reduce the poverty of this part of the population, especially as other external development partners are increasingly embracing the PRSP approach.

Disability situation in developing countries

According to UN estimates, persons with disabilities represent between 7% and 10% of any country's population and can reach up to 82% of those below the poverty line. In Cambodia, several census/surveys give an average estimation of 7% of people living with disabilities (Asian Development Bank – ADB – survey estimates).

The above estimates clearly indicate that **people living with disabilities** (People with disabilities) **are not a marginal minority**, particularly if it is considered that one person's disability affects not only her/his own situation but also the situation of her/his family and even of her/his community. Unemployment rates are systematically higher than for any other population group, up to 80% in many PRSP countries. Disability is both a cause and a consequence of poverty: a vicious circle leads from the appearance of a disability towards poverty, which increases the risk of disability,

which in turn increases poverty. Any government has the obligation to break this circle; any poverty reduction strategy has to place the disability issue in a prominent position. A World Bank study estimates the annual loss of GDP globally, owing to having so many People with disabilities out of work, at between US\$1.37 trillion and US\$ 1.94 trillion. Among the dimensions put forward in recent poverty concepts, "voicelessness" and "powerlessness" are particularly important to understanding the specific determinants of the poverty of disabled persons.

Disability in the NSDP: Review and evaluation

In the NSDP 2006-2010, it can be said that the issue of disabled people almost never appears in the seven chapters, not in the tables, not in the annexes, and not in the Cambodian Millennium Development Goal (CMDG) indicators.

Chapters

Except some brief mentions of mines/UXO and victim assistance, there is no single chapter or article specifically about the situation of People with disabilities. Unlike gender, the disability issue is never taken into account as a sensitive and major issue in reaching the goal of poverty alleviation. It may be that this invisibility is consequent to perfect implementation of an inclusive process, considering People with disabilities as equal citizens; unfortunately, its absence reveals more their exclusion than their equal participation and consideration by the society.

Monitoring and evaluation framework

Nothing relates specifically to the key aspect of disability and the participation of People with disabilities. The voicelessness of disabled people and their invisibility in data are still problems. If the RGC is to monitor the poverty situation; a specific set of measures needs to be developed in order to obtain data on disability. Realistic data on disability should be available countrywide, especially for mainstreaming development programs. Without addressing the poverty of People with disabilities, the strategy will fail to see the complete picture of poverty in Cambodia.

The absence of disability issues in the different sectors shows a non-respect for major legally binding documents to which Cambodia is a party, e.g. UN ESCAP Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons and UN Standard Rules for the Equalization of Opportunities of Persons with Disabilities (1993). Also, as Cambodia can now ratify the UN Convention on Disability voted on in December 2006, a revision and adjustment of the NSDP could be expected.

Revision and Inclusion of Disability in the NSDP

First of all, the treatment of disability and People with disabilities must not convey a wrong impression about the abilities and aspirations of the majority of poor People with disabilities, and must keep to the current human rights approach to disability. Many working age persons with disabilities can and want to work, and do not wish to be considered as "welfare cases". Secondly, People with disabilities are not a homogeneous group. They are widely spread over an autonomy continuum reaching from total to zero autonomy. Disability policies and programs are located on a parallel continuum reaching from "social assistance" to "access to productive work". A fraction of individuals with disabilities will always be totally dependant on social assistance policies (for example disability benefits), because they may be too severely disabled or too old. A social assistance policy will therefore be a significant part of any disability policy. There are other individuals with disabilities for whom a mix of social assistance and access to work programs, such as supported employment or sheltered employment programs may be adequate. But the majority of youth and adults with disabilities are "potentially autonomous": adequate support measures are sufficient to neutralize the impairment so that it does not constitute a disability. Disabled persons' needs cut across multiple sectors, like the needs of anybody else: education, vocational training, health, employment, urban planning, housing, culture, etc. By radicalizing this approach, it could be said that there would be no need for a special disability policy/chapters if all

sectoral policies were well conceived in an integrative manner. However, experience shows that this is not the case. People with disabilities need some structure that makes sure that their needs and interests are correctly taken into account in all sectoral policies. This is structurally not different from any other target group policy, for example gender policy.

Issues

- Lack of health infrastructure, infestation with landmines and extreme poverty has caused Cambodia to have the highest number of People with disabilities per capita in the world.
- It can be estimated that up to 7% of Cambodia's population (or 980,000 people) have a disability.
- People with disabilities overwhelmingly belong to the 35% group living on less than US\$1 a day (82% of People with disabilities, according to UN surveys).
- Although landmines remain a significant problem in Cambodia (mines/UXO are still responsible for 875 casualties; 87% of the 267 children were killed) illness and road accidents now account for the greatest incidence of disability in Cambodia, with a youngest affected population.
- An estimated 13.4% of school children are disabled, but since there are significant barriers to children with disabilities attending school, the number of children with disabilities in Cambodia is likely to be much higher.
- Despite its high prevalence of People with disabilities, Cambodia is not an exception to the international trend of discrimination. People with disabilities are viewed highly negatively and are highly discriminated against, routinely rejected and invisible in their communities and families. This situation is exacerbated in rural areas, where most Cambodians live, and where those who cannot contribute to growing rice and food are often seen as a burden to their family and community. In addition, the common psychological hardships they experience, such as abandonment by their spouses, social stigmatization, rejection, unemployment, higher rates of alcoholism and suicide, and other mental health needs are usually not addressed.

IV- GO-NGOs Collaboration

The Government and NGOs collaboration related to the social protection and disabilities mainly focuses on the following sectors: Physical Rehabilitation, Community-Based Rehabilitation, Medical Rehabilitation, Vocational Training, and Job Placement, and Education for Children with Disabilities.

1. Physical Rehabilitation Sectors

The physical rehabilitation sector in Cambodia functions through Physical Rehabilitation Centers (PRCs) supported by INGOs consisting of ICRC, HIB, HIF, CT and VI with participation from MoSVY such as: land and building, permanent and contractual staff, some financial contributions (for materials, electricity, water supply, food and travel costs for people with disabilities to receive services at the PRCs). The PRCs provide physical rehabilitation services for people with disabilities free of charge. PRCs provide prosthetics, orthotics, wheelchairs and physiotherapy in order to increase mobility and independence for people with disabilities. At present, there are 11 PRCs in Cambodia as follows:

- National Physical Rehabilitation Center Kien Khleang (P.Penh) supported by VI
- Regional Physical Rehabilitation Center Battambang supported by ICRC
- Regional Physical Rehabilitation Center Kampong Speu supported by ICRC
- Regional Physical Rehabilitation Center Siem Reap supported by HIB
- Physical Rehabilitation Center Takeo supported by HIB

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| - Physical Rehabilitation Center Kampong Cham | supported by HIF |
| - Physical Rehabilitation Center Preiveng | supported by VI |
| - Physical Rehabilitation Center Kratie | supported by VI |
| - Physical Rehabilitation Center Kalmetre (Phnom Penh) | supported by CT |
| - Physical Rehabilitation Center Shihanuk Ville | supported by CT |
| - Physical Rehabilitation Center Kampong Chhnang | supported by CT |

Other establishments were created by collaboration between government and INGOs and LNGOs such as:

- Component Factory Phnom Penh supported by ICRC, produces components and materials for supporting PRCs at all levels.
- Cambodian School of Prosthetics and Orthotics (Phnom Penh) is supported by CT. CSPO was created in order to train prosthetist - orthotists (specialists who prescribe and fit prosthetics and orthotics) from low-income countries to establish the foundation of sustainable physical rehabilitation services for people with disabilities and reduce reliance on expatriate expertise.
- SCI Rehabilitation Center (Battambang) was supported by HIF. The center provides medical and physical rehabilitation to the serious people suffered by spinal cord injury
- Physiotherapy Treatment Center (Phnom Penh) is run by Rehabilitation Department's technical staffs.
- Ban Teay Preap wheelchair production workshop where could product Mekong wheelchair supplying to most of rehabilitation centers and others need of wheelchair which is supported by JSC.
- Kean Kleang wheelchair production workshop which is supported by WCD where can produce an adapted wheelchair for all kind of People with disabilities and another workshop which is supported by VI.

2. Community-Based Rehabilitation

Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans, and Youth Rehabilitation in collaboration with relevant stakeholders as partners such as of VI, CT, ADD, CDPO, NCDP, CABDICO, ABC, TCF, CWARS, ILO, LMDS, DDSP, WVC, JSC, CVCD, OEC, CDMD, HIB, HIF have conducted the project activities to rehabilitate People with disabilities in the community in the aim to promote livelihood of People with disabilities in their community as well as integrate them into society. The community-based rehabilitation services for People with disabilities focusing on the activities as follows:

- Disabilities Awareness Raising Activities: Disabilities Prevention, Health Education, Organizing Awareness Events, Developing Awareness Materials.
- Basic Needs Activities: Health Referrals, Emergency Support.
- Rehabilitation Activities: Home-based Rehabilitation, Making Local Aids, Community Follow up.
- Social Activities: Counseling, Self-help Group, Special/Inclusive Education.
- Economic Activities: Vocational/Agricultural Training, Animal Bank, Micro Credit, Income -Generation.
- Capacity-Building Activities: Disabled People's Association, PoSVY, DoSVY and Commune Councils.

3. Medical Rehabilitation

In cooperation with NGOs/IOs and NGOs/IOs partners such as CIOMAL, Rose-Charity Local, and Rose-Charity International, We have operated as the center-based rehabilitation for People

with disabilities who need the medical rehabilitation services for example: leprosy treatment, eyes surgery, etc.

4. Vocational Training and Job Placement

a) Vocational Training

In 1997, based on a 1996 Task Force recommendation vocational training service providers organized themselves into the Vocational Training, Income Generation and Job Placement Committee serviced by the Disability Action Council. Since then, the vocational training service providers have met regularly to discuss technical issues aimed at ensuring maximum equitable distribution of quality training services to all disabled persons in Cambodian society and to avoid overlap in service provision.

The VT/JP/IG Committee comprises representatives from Non-Governmental Organizations, International Organizations and Governmental institutions. The mandate of this committee is to enhance economic development for disabled persons through supporting vocational training, job placement and income generation activities.

In the aim to build capacity for People with disabilities, as well as encourage them to participate in the social activities, especially to promote their living condition, the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans, and Youth Rehabilitation in collaboration with relevant stakeholders conducts vocational skill training programs for People with disabilities in the three types of training as follows:

b) Center-Based Vocational Training:

In the type of training, we collect and select people with disabilities from community to train in the center. The duration of training is from 03-24 months according to the skill training. The skill training consists of motor and small machine repairing, computer repairing, electronic, battery repairing, sewing, bag making wood and stone carving, carpenter, barbering, and hairdressing, etc. After graduation from vocational skill training, the center provides some grants, low or no-interest credit or instruments to graduating trainees to start businesses in their community, and the center's agencies follow up on business activity of people with disabilities.

In 2005 there were 1,323 people with disabilities who graduated from all vocational training centers and there were 1,729 people with disabilities who graduated in 2006. Most of those graduates (at least 70%) get employment (self-employment and working with private sector, NGOs,...etc)

c) Vocational Training through Workshops

Operators have contracted with the workshops for training people with disabilities according to the type of workshop functioning. People with disabilities have the opportunity to implement the activities directly through the workshop. The operators who send people with disabilities follow up their activities during the training and when people with disabilities are starting their business operations. The operators provide some grants, low or no-interest credit or necessary instruments to people with disabilities for opening their business.

d) Community-Based Vocational Training

A short-term vocational skill-training program, the trainees are in their community, the operators provide a very simple skill training which is suitable to the actual situation in the community. After finishing the training program, the operators provide some financial support or other materials to start the business.

e) Job Settlement

From 1987 to the end of 2006, there were 13.327 People with disabilities who graduated from the various vocational skill training programs. After graduation of vocational skill program, the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans, and Youth Rehabilitation, in collaboration with stakeholders, coordinate with private sector companies and factories to recruit people with disabilities. They also provide some financial support and materials to people with disabilities who intend to set up their own business. As a result, there are 8.449 people with disabilities who have their own business, and 831 people with disabilities employed in the private sector.

5. Education for Children with Disabilities

The Royal Government of Cambodia is committed to achieving universal primary education and is working with key partners to accelerate progress towards this Education For All target by 2015 in line with the Fast Track Initiative. The Royal Government of Cambodia signed the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on October 1st 2007. The Education section, Article 24. Section 2b states: "Persons with disabilities can access an inclusive, quality and free primary education and secondary education on an equal basis with others in the communities in which they live" (see Appendix A).

The DAC operates the Children with Disabilities Committee which aims to improve the quality of life of all disabled children by taking an advocacy and advisory role for all educational, health and rehabilitation services for children with disabilities. The committee comprises representatives from the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MoEYS), the Ministry of Health, MoSVY and up to 25 NGOs.

3. Strengths

- NGOs have been registered and recognized by Ministry of Interior and have the MoU with MoSVY for implementation of activities.
- NGOs always discuss with MoSVY/ PoSVY the development of work plans and pre-field operations.
- Most NGO staff attends meetings conducted by MoSVY/ PoSVY.
- MoSVY, PoSVY and NGOs join together to organize International Day for Disabled People and other awareness raising events
- Good cooperation between NGOs and PoSVY, DoSVY and Commune Councils in the community.
- NGOs support the incentive provided to PoSVY and DoSVY staff to implement Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) activities.
- NGOs provide capacity building for PoSVY and DoSVY on CBR training or through on job training as their priority in order to sustain the project
- MoEYS delivers in-service teacher training on Teaching Children with Special Needs (developed by the DAC).
- Development of Child Friendly Schools policy and practice including household mapping to identify children not attending school and to address the underlying barriers to their participation.

- A number of special schools are run by NGO's or charities and some operate integrated classes in government schools or seek to place children in mainstream schools after a period of time. These include some schools and classes for deaf and blind children.

5. Weaknesses

- No coordination mechanism between PoSVYs and NGOs working on disability and rehabilitation sector.
- Some of NGOs have lack of collaboration with MoSVY PoSVY, DoSVY as partner in implementing their activities by defining Commune Council and Village chief instead MoSVY staff.
- No reporting system has been developed for NGOs and MoSVY, PoSVY.
- Some NGOs do not follow the work as described in the MoU.
- PoSVY contact staff often change, making difficult for NGOs to collaborate.
- Currently there is no accurate and comprehensive data on the numbers of disabled children in and out of school. However, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MoEYS) and development partners (DAC, UNICEF and the World Bank) developed a tool for the inclusion of disabled children in the Education Management Information System (EMIS) and disabled children will be counted through the student enrolment register from academic year 2007-2008.
- Severely disabled children generally receive no education except in NGO-run schools in Phnom Penh and in one NGO-run integrated class in Pursat.
- Lack of understanding and awareness in society generally about disability and about the capacity and potential of disabled children.
- Poverty, malnutrition, poor access to healthcare and socio-cultural factors such as families prioritizing the education of their non-disabled children.

Recommendations

- PoSVY should establish a better coordination mechanism in the disability and rehabilitation sector at the provincial level.
- NGOs to work with PoSVY and DoSVY contact staff as well as with Commune Councils.
- MoSVY should set up a better time frame in its guideline for signing of MoUs.
- Reporting system needs to be developed and agreed between MoSVY and NGOs.
- Adoption and implementation of the draft National Policy on Inclusive Education for Children with Disabilities
- Comparison of data from EMIS and National Census 2008 to monitor participation in school by disabled children
- Support for disabled children to attend school, e.g. through targeting disabled children in scholarship programs
- Comprehensive national disease and disability prevention campaign including access to clean water

List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

AAR	Association for Aid and Relief
ABC	Association of the Blind in Cambodia
ADD	Action on Disability and Development
CDPO	Cambodia Disabled Peoples' Organization
CT	Cambodia Trust
CVCD	Cambodia Volunteers for Community Development
CMDG	Cambodian Millennium Development Goal
CBR	Community Based Rehabilitation
CSO	Civil Society organizations
DAC	Disability Action Council
DoSVY	District of Social Affairs, Veterans, and Youth Rehabilitation
GO	Government Organization
HIB	Handicap International Belgium
HIF	Handicap International France
IOs	International Organization
ILO	International Labor Organization
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
JCIA	Japan Cambodia Interactive Association
JSC	Jesuit Service Cambodia
MoSVY	Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans, and Youth Rehabilitation
NCDP	National Center for Disabled Persons
NGO	Non Government Organization
NSDP	National Strategy Development Plan
OEC	Organization Enfant Cambodia

PoSVY	Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans, and Youth Rehabilitation
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
PWD	Persons with Disabilities
PRCs	Physical Rehabilitation Centers
RTC	RTC Cambodia (Dried fruit manufacture)
TCF	Trauma Care Foundation
VTC	Vocational Training Center
VI	Veteran International
WVC	World Vision Cambodia
WRF	World Rehabilitation Fund