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IN CAMBODIA

Secondary Education Improvement Project

Background

Over the past 20 years, Cambodia has expanded access to education. In primary school, net enrollment increased from 83.8 percent in 1992 to 98.4 percent in 2015. Lower secondary school enrollment also increased from 31.9 percent in 2009 to 51.5 percent in 2015 and the early childhood education enrollment rate from 5-year-old rose from 24.6 percent in 2004 to 64 percent in 2015.

While these achievements are impressive and well-acknowledged, the education system will need to continue to expand equitable access to quality lower secondary education in order to meet the United Nations development goal of providing basic education (grade 1 to 9) to all children.

In 2015, over 60 percent of children at lower secondary school-age were out of school, and the dropout rate reached 21 percent between 2013 and 2014. In a 2016 school mapping exercise carried out by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport and the World Bank, 70 percent of sampled schools experienced room shortages, overcrowded classrooms, teacher shortages, inadequate supplies for teachers, and under-qualified teachers. To address these challenges, a new project was initiated—the Secondary Education Improvement Project (SEIP).

About the Project

The project development objective is to expand lower secondary education to achieve minimum standards in targeted areas. This objective will be achieved through:

- **Component 1: Improving Lower Secondary Education to meet minimum standards**:
  - Strengthening school-based management through the provision of the School Improvement Fund at the Provincial and District Office of Education and school levels.
  - Upgrading the qualifications of lower secondary school teachers, especially in the areas of mathematics, physics, biology, chemistry, Khmer, and History.
  - Improving school facilities through construction and rehabilitation of 100 existing schools and construction of 30 new schools to provide enabling conditions for effective teaching and learning.

- **Component 2: Strengthening Project Management and Monitoring and Evaluation** by providing technical and operational assistance for the coordination, administration, monitoring, evaluation, and audit of the project.

Beneficiaries and Results

The project's main beneficiaries will be 16,250 students in 130 targeted lower secondary schools, approximately 2,200 teachers, 310 school directors and deputy directors, 1,500 school staff members and 500 provincial and district education staff.

Location: Nationwide

Financiers:
- International Development Association (World Bank), **US$40** million,
- Royal Government of Cambodia, **US$0.9** million

Implementing Agencies:
- Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport

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