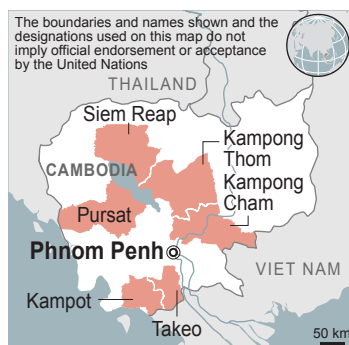


Special programme for food security to improve food security and income generation of poor families in Cambodia



UN Trust Fund for Human Security



Fast Facts

Country: Cambodia

Duration: June 2003 to December 2006

Implementing UN Agencies: FAO

Other Implementing Partners: Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

Budget: \$1,161,605.16

Key Words: Rural development; food security; post-conflict reconstruction; capacity building

BACKGROUND

As of 2003, Cambodia's population was primarily agrarian with 85 percent residing in rural areas. Moreover, 36 percent of Cambodians lived below the poverty line, of which 90 percent were rural agricultural labourers. Due to lack of access to water, highly variable rainfall, poor soil fertility and low use

of fertilizers, the nation's rural poor were extremely vulnerable to food insecurity. As agricultural productivity continued to fall below Cambodia's population growth, significant portions of Cambodians were unable to meet their basic food requirements.

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The project aimed to improve household food security and income generation among Cambodia's rural poor in the provinces of Takeo, Kampot, Kampong Cham, Kampong Thom, Siem Reap and Pursat. This was achieved by strengthening the capacity of institutions at the district and provincial levels and through the creation of farmers' groups, and by improving

cooperation between Governmental and nongovernmental bodies in order to build synergies among programmes at the district, provincial and central levels. Efforts to strengthen community responses were accompanied by activities to improve access to water, crop diversification and income generation.

BENEFICIARIES

The project targeted over 5,000 of the poorest households in 179 Cambodian villages. At village level, the project worked to improve food production and income generation through agricultural training

and the establishment of savings groups for the most vulnerable households. Meanwhile, Government staff benefited from training in technical and managerial skills.