United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security

Cambodia

Sihanoukville for All: Promoting a Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive City

Background information

In recent years, an unprecedented amount of financial investment has promoted rapid economic development in the Cambodian coastal province of Preah Sihanouk. The province has more factories, resorts, hotels and casinos than ever before and is experiencing a fast-tracked urbanization trend. This development has increased the number of opportunities for many people by creating jobs and businesses in a very short time. However, the economic benefits have been distributed unevenly across the population leaving people behind, especially the most vulnerable and marginalized groups.

The COVID-19 pandemic has further compounded the human insecurities of communities living in Preah Sihanouk province. To build *Sihanoukville for All*, the programme aims to conduct a comprehensive human security assessment to identify challenges and opportunities in Preah Sihanouk province and provide local and national authorities, as well as other relevant stakeholders with evidence-based tools to define risk-informed strategies, programmes and policy options.

Goals and objectives

The key objectives of the programme are to: (i) establish an inclusive consultative process for all relevant stakeholders to discuss the impact and opportunities of a rapidly growing economy; (ii) identify challenges to human security, their root causes and the opportunities to address them through a comprehensive, evidence-based and participatory analysis while providing local and national authorities with implementable strategies and programme recommendations; and (iii) define the concept of "Sustainable, Inclusive and Smart Sihanoukville (SHV) City" through inclusive and participatory stakeholder consultations. The programme also aims to contribute to policy analysis and development to further capitalize on the surge of investments in Preah Sihanouk province and as such improve the living standards of its population, particularly those who are most vulnerable.

DURATION
August 2020 – December 2021

UN IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES
OHCHR, UN-Habitat

OTHER KEY PARTNERS
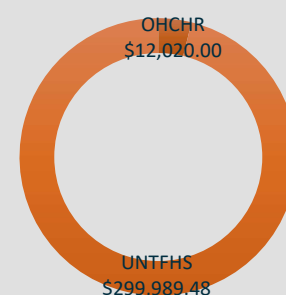Royal Government of Cambodia, private sector, local communities, civil society and research institutions

BENEFICIARIES
151,150

TOTAL BUDGET
US$ 312,009.48

POOLING OF RESOURCES

OHCHR
$12,020.00

UNTFHS
$299,989.48

Beneficiaries

The programme benefits 150,000 inhabitants in Sihanoukville, as well as 100 people from local authorities, 1,000 people from affected communities, 50 people from the private sector and 30 civil society organizations.

Applying the Human Security approach

The programme is designed to assess the multi-dimensional consequences of rapid urbanization and the inflow of foreign investment in Preah Sihanoukville province. This assessment, which is based on the human security framework, informs the level, trends, connections, and interactions among the risks related to human security and how they have affected communities, including women, men, children, adolescents, youth, and other vulnerable groups.

Complemented with the development of a "Smart, Sustainable, and Inclusive City for Sihanoukville", the human security assessment ensures that a people-centered approach is embedded as the blueprint for the future of Sihanoukville across key domains of human security. It also helps inform policymakers on how to improve the living standards of residents, particularly by identifying and addressing the urgent human security needs of communities in a comprehensive manner.

The programme is implemented through multi-stakeholder dialogues and consultations. Subsequently, and as part of the assessment, focus group consultations are held with local authorities, the private sector, affected communities, and civil society. Multi-stakeholder dialogues are also used as an opportunity to empower communities and civil society by promoting community participation in local decision-making and raising awareness of issues related to human security.

These dialogues ensure the use of local knowledge, capacities and resources through the participation and representation of community members, including those most vulnerable. Moreover, they allow communities to take the lead in consultations and voice the concerns of those most vulnerable in a safe space.

As a result, an integrated, efficient, and effective delivery of capacity building activities and concrete results are achieved through continuous coordination within the UN Country Team in Cambodia, along with the Government and all relevant stakeholders across all groups.

Achievements

- The programme successfully established an inclusive consultation process involving local government authorities, the private sector, affected communities, and civil society to discuss the impacts and opportunities of Preah Sihanouk's rapid urbanization and economic growth. Through separate and joint consultations, stakeholders validated the findings of the Human Security Assessment (HSA). A formal structure, the SHV Smart City Working Group, was also created to facilitate ongoing dialogues.

- The programme defined and codified the concept of a "Sustainable, Inclusive, and Smart SHV City" through inclusive stakeholder consultations and expert advisory services. This approach, guided by the Human Security Assessment, outlined three pillars with 13 smart initiatives addressing various aspects of urban development: smart planning and e-governance, smart services through crowdsourced data, and digital empowerment to reduce the digital divide. Comprehensive lessons-learned and case study reports were produced and disseminated through workshops and various meetings with local, national, and international stakeholders.

- The programme supported the development of a Report based on the HSA to identify challenges and opportunities in Sihanoukville. The final report detailed findings across seven dimensions of human security and provided ten strategic recommendations. The assessment, validated by stakeholders, informed the concept of a "Sustainable, Inclusive, and Smart SHV City" and was disseminated to highlight the importance of a human security approach in addressing Sihanoukville's multidimensional challenges.