



**United Nations Trust Fund  
for Human Security**



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CAMBODIA**  
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# **SIHANOUKVILLE FOR ALL:** **Promoting a Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive City**

## **HUMAN SECURITY ASSESSMENT REPORT**

**August 2021**



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OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

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## Abbreviations

<b>ARIEL</b>	Asian Research Institute for Environmental Law
<b>CCCCSP</b>	Cambodia Climate Change Strategic Plan
<b>CSDG</b>	Cambodia Sustainable Development Goal
<b>CSO</b>	Civil Society Organisation
<b>EIA</b>	Environmental Impact Assessment
<b>ESIA</b>	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment
<b>FDI</b>	Foreign Direct Investment
<b>GGGI</b>	Global Green Growth Institute
<b>HEI</b>	Higher Education Institution
<b>HSF</b>	Human Security Framework
<b>ICT</b>	Information and Communication Technology
<b>ISP</b>	Internet Service Provider
<b>IEIA</b>	Initial Environmental Impact Assessment
<b>JICA</b>	Japan International Cooperation Agency
<b>MoE</b>	Ministry of Environment
<b>MoI</b>	Ministry of Interior
<b>MPWT</b>	Ministry of Public Works and Transport
<b>MLMUPC</b>	Ministry of Land Management Urban Planning and Construction
<b>MSWM</b>	Municipal Solid Waste Management
<b>NCDD</b>	Sub-National Democratic Development
<b>NCSD</b>	National Council for Sustainable Development
<b>NESAP</b>	National Environment Strategy and Action Plan
<b>NSDP</b>	National Strategic Development Plan
<b>OHCHR</b>	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
<b>PAP</b>	Project Affected Person
<b>PPP</b>	Public-Private Partnership
<b>RGC</b>	Royal Government of Cambodia
<b>RSP-IV</b>	Rectangular Strategy – Phase IV
<b>SDG</b>	Sustainable Development Goal
<b>SSCWG</b>	Sihanoukville Smart City Working Group
<b>SEZ</b>	Special Economic Zone
<b>SME</b>	Small and Medium Enterprise
<b>SNA</b>	Sub-National Administration
<b>SPSEZ</b>	Sihanoukville Port SEZ
<b>SSEZ</b>	Sihanoukville SEZ
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>WCCC</b>	Women’s and Children’s Consultative Committee

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# Executive Summary

“ This is our aspiration for the implementation of the Smart City concept in Sihanoukville – one that is grounded on the sustainable development agenda and the SDGs. While Sustainable Development Goal 11 (“Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”) is most directly related to the concept of a smart city; other goals and targets related to hunger, poverty, inequality, health, gender equality, land, water, and climate change must be integrated into the Smart city framework.

**Linking the smart city project to the SDGs is not enough, the simple fact is that NO city can be considered ‘smart’ if it ignores the interests of poor, marginalized, and vulnerable groups and communities.** This smart city needs to be the result of a series of consultations with experts, civil society organizations, social movements, and people’s representatives to ensure that the project is comprehensive and holistic. ”

Excerpt of the keynote address by Ms. Pauline Tamesis,  
United Nations Resident Coordinator to Cambodia,  
at the Smart City Working Group Meeting,  
on 23rd February 2021.

To support the Royal Government of Cambodia’s (RCG) desire to mitigate adverse effects resulting from rapid urbanisation and economic growth in and around Sihanoukville City, the UN Resident Coordinator to Cambodia, together with UN-Habitat and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) proposed the year-long project titled “Sihanoukville for All: Promoting a Smart, Sustainable, and Inclusive City”. The purpose is to help authorities and UN agencies identify smart city policies and programs that capitalise on investments while improving the population’s livelihood, including vulnerable groups, in Preah Sihanouk province. The conduct of a human security assessment of the Sihanoukville population is timely and provides an important snapshot at a very opportune time for the future of Sihanoukville. Readers interested in the underlying methodology will find valuable information in Chapter 1, along with a statement on the achievements and limitations of the actual field study.

**Chapter 2** provides a brief, selected background material to the reader unfamiliar with the specific country characteristics. This contextual information is important to bear in mind while considering analyses and recommendations conveyed in other sections. Topics covered include: a review of the legal framework of public administration at central and sub-national levels

in Cambodia; review of national strategic planning documents; review of national environmental and development planning; review of the planning and development context for Sihanoukville; and a review of land and resettlement concerns in the country.

**Chapter 3** presents the first level of analysis highlighting factors, interlinkages and root causes along the seven essential dimensions of human security concerns, i.e., economic security, food security, health security, environmental security, personal security, community security and trust in institutions.

- ▶ **Economic security** — Salient factors of economic insecurity include the uncontrolled inflation of rental for office/home premises; the uncontrolled inflation of food prices; the heightened employment volatility; the vulnerability of essential assets e.g. housing assets; as well as adverse business conditions experienced by small/micro businesses.
- ▶ **Food security** — In turn, the combined action of uncontrolled inflation of food prices and a diminution of household income results in food insecurity for the most vulnerable segments of the population. Another factor affecting food security is the diminished food production due to reallocating farmland.
- ▶ **Health security** — While most residents perceive health security as improving and easier access to

public healthcare services is provided to vulnerable households through the IDPoor program, shortcomings remain. The limited coverage of services is such that many medical conditions require Sihanoukville residents to travel to Phnom Penh Capital City. Also, IDPoor cardholders tend to receive unequal service levels. The worst degree of health insecurity is in prisons and detention centres.

- ▶ **Environmental security** — From an environmental perspective, the accumulation of solid waste in urban areas is a prominent factor affecting the everyday reality of a great number of Sihanoukville residents, especially around marketplaces and along narrow streets. Other insecurity factors mentioned by survey participants include hazards due to flooding in urban areas, marine pollution, pollution of soils, and uncontrolled disruptions of ecosystems resulting from rapid urbanisation.
- ▶ **Personal security** — Personal insecurity primarily results from exposure to gangsterism and other crimes. Commuting around the city was said to become increasingly unsafe due to the risk of being robbed or caught accidentally in armed violence often linked with drug trafficking. Survey participants also quoted risk of rape, sexual violence and exposure to domestic violence. Other problematic factors adding to a growing sense of personal insecurity include exposure to retaliation or intimidation (affecting adults); exposure to modern forms of prostitution (affecting young adults), and; exposure to child labour and other forms of personal insecurity (affecting children).
- ▶ **Community security** — Various factors appear to affect community security. Multiple survey participants noted an increase in the crime level in their community, giving rise to robberies and shootings even at daytime. Academics and students interviewed in this study also confirmed a similar trend on university campuses. Other factors quoted by survey participants include road safety and children exposed to a diversity of risks and hazards while being left unsupervised.
- ▶ **Trust in institutions** — Regarding the question of trust in institutions, the topmost concern is the rise of land-related disputes, the fear of related intimidation or retaliation, and the experience of judicial decisions perceived as unfair.

**Chapter 4** conveys suggestions collected from communities for mitigating root causes and factors upstream (preventive measures) or mitigating effects downstream (protective and empowering measures). Examples of preventive measures include:

- ▶ Bridging the known situation of information asymmetry by empowering Sihanoukville residents from all backgrounds with a better awareness of existing land rights-related laws, regulations, judicial mechanisms, and grievance and redress mechanisms and enabling easier access cadastral and construction permitting information.
- ▶ Enhancing communication between residents and local authorities using modern digital and e-Governance tools.
- ▶ Providing local food producers and supply chains with promotional support at a level comparable to top priority activities such as the local Garment Industry and the Sihanoukville Port.
- ▶ Providing local food producers and supply chains with modern market infrastructures.
- ▶ Attracting investors and firms from more diverse origins. Encouraging firms to elevate their social performance through skills upgrade and career development plans for employees.
- ▶ Harnessing digital technologies for implementing effective controls on food prices.
- ▶ Amending governance settings in the healthcare sector.
- ▶ Organising education programs for residents on environmentally friendly behaviours, selecting solid waste, occupational health and safety at the workplace.
- ▶ Strengthening accountability within law enforcement authorities.
- ▶ Developing programs to educate adults and youth about the dangers of drug use.
- ▶ Installing video surveillance cameras as a preventive measure against irresponsible driving behaviours.

**Chapter 5** conveys recommendations for a smart city model for Sihanoukville as per experts' views, declined along the three dimensions characterising this project: inclusiveness, sustainability and smart engagement.

This report considers the readiness of the current context of Sihanoukville with regards to **inclusiveness** in the following senses: inclusiveness in the sense of equality of access to information and equal opportunity for knowledge upgrade; inclusiveness in the sense of equal treatment

regardless of social origins; inclusiveness based on geography, and; inclusiveness in the sense of inclusive business. Various recommendations are conveyed, including building media/ information/ data literacy among all social groups; building the capacity of



Sihanoukville residents to report information on issues and concerns they encountered in their communities by training them on basic journalism and use of social media technologies, and; enabling Internet connectivity throughout Sihanoukville City on an inclusive basis.

Readiness with regards to **sustainability** calls for the following recommendations. The key issues which have emerged from interviews include waste management, stormwater management, and planning and construction management. More generally, environmental planning and assessment, including Master Planning for Sihanoukville and environmental protection, and the consequences of land acquisition and resumption (including resettlement and livelihood issues) underpin significant security concerns. It must be stated clearly that this is not due to the absence of laws, regulations and policies. The RGC has created, in most areas, a strong legal and regulated framework to address these insecurities. In most specific cases, the insecurity is created by the failure to ensure that these laws and regulations are fully complied with. The need for strong compliance and enforcement of existing legal frameworks and the introduction of greater transparency and innovative approaches to community engagement and participation will significantly reduce these insecurities and promote significant benefits for the people of Sihanoukville.

From the point of view of economic **sustainability**, this study has uncovered the decay of farming activities in Preah Sihanouk Province and the increasing dependency of Sihanoukville on food product importation. Therefore, a key recommendation is to consider reviving the local farming activities and supply chains as a key strategic matter of smart city planning. Avenues may vary according to the degree of control which Provincial authorities intend to keep in that process: from a liberal approach where the private sector developments are influenced through incentives set out by policymakers; to a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) where the distribution of roles and responsibilities is more balanced; to a centralised approach where a revival plan would be steered at Province-level. In the

geographical context of Sihanoukville combining connections by sea, air, rail and road, and in a national context promoting the Industry 4.0 model, the perspective of a Sihanoukville Agropark appears to be particularly relevant; and a PPP-based approach particularly well suited.

Regarding **smart engagement**, this study revealed a willingness from Sihanoukville residents to take initiative

and participate in the positive transformation to come, provided that they are empowered adequately to that end: empowered thanks to urban infrastructures such as venues made available to residents for holding information sharing seminars; empowered thanks to efficient and reliable Internet services for enabling digital participation; empowered through a fruitful dialogue with local authorities. Chapter 5 highlights opportunities for the Sihanoukville civil society to harness existing legal provisions and engage in a fruitful dialogue with the public sector at local levels.

**Chapter 6** presents a complementary view of the recommendations outlined in Chapters 4 & 5, by highlighting their alignment with Cambodia's Rectangular Strategy Phase IV (RPS-IV), Cambodia's National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP) 2019-2023, as well as other national and supranational strategic plans. It is designed specifically for policymakers and program developers seeking opportunities to link the strategic visions, laws, development plans, and policies already in place to the development of an inclusive, sustainable, and smart Sihanoukville. Strategic recommendations and programmatic suggestions have been articulated along with ten characteristics which, in isolation or in combination, aim to establish the very essence of "smartness" while combined with sustainability and inclusiveness. Those are:

- A.** Reinforce a higher autonomy of decision-making at the local level and a higher degree of participation of residents in the local policymaking process.
- B.** Enhance citizen-government dialogue, including through adequate digital participation platforms and effective grievance/redress mechanisms.
- C.** Improve awareness about laws, rights, and obligations set in the laws.
- D.** Achieve higher environmental sustainability and life quality standards.
- E.** Achieve more effective climate change practices and preparedness.
- F.** Foster a business ecosystem that is conducive to entrepreneurship and economic diversification.
- G.** Reclaim sustainability through improved food autonomy.
- H.** Provide residents with adequate healthcare services.
- I.** Provide all residents with adequate food security and nutrition.
- J.** Provide all residents with improved safety and security.

# 1 Objectives, Methodology and Achievements of this Sihanoukville Human Security Assessment

## 1.1 High-Level Objectives of the “Sihanoukville for All” Project

### 1.1.1 Strategic Objectives

To support the Royal Government of Cambodia’s desire to mitigate adverse effects resulting from rapid urbanisation and economic growth in and around Sihanoukville City, the UN Resident Coordinator to Cambodia, together with UN-Habitat and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) proposed the year-long project titled “Sihanoukville for All: Promoting a Smart, Sustainable, and Inclusive City”. The purpose is to help authorities and UN agencies identify smart city policies and programs that capitalise on investments while improving the livelihood of the population, including vulnerable groups, in Preah Sihanouk province. One objective of the project is to conduct a comprehensive human security assessment to identify the risks and opportunities to the people and communities of Sihanoukville city.

### 1.1.2 Project Proponents

The main project proponents are: the Smart City Working Group that is chaired by the current Governor of the Preah Sihanouk Province, His Excellency Kuoch Chamroeun; the Preah Sihanouk Province per se and its provincial Departments; the Sihanoukville municipality; the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights (OHCHR) in Cambodia; the UN-Habitat program; residents per se; CSOs; micro businesses; women/youth as well as other affected communities.

OHCHR has contracted the Asian Research Institute for Environmental Law Pty Ltd (ARIEL) to conduct a Human Security Assessment and communicate related findings and recommendations (this report).

## 1.2 Presentation of Research Design for this Human Security Assessment

### 1.2.1 United Nations Human Security Assessment Framework

This Cambodia human security assessment project relies on the United Nations (UN) Human Security Framework<sup>1</sup> (HSF) as its main reference for guiding methodology choices. The Framework introduces three complementary dimensions for the purpose of understanding the complexity of human security contingencies, namely:

- ▶ Freedom from fear,
- ▶ Freedom from want,
- ▶ Freedom to live in dignity.

That triad of aspirations is further refined by a typology distinguishing between seven types of human security as follows:

- ▶ Economic security,
- ▶ Food security,
- ▶ Health security,
- ▶ Environmental security,
- ▶ Personal security,
- ▶ Community-level security,
- ▶ Fairness of institutions.

In addition, the framework sets out five fundamental principles for the human security approach in general, which also serve as a guide for designing this Cambodia human security assessment, namely:

- ▶ Principle 1: People-centred.
- ▶ Principle 2: Comprehensive.
- ▶ Principle 3: Context-specific.
- ▶ Principle 4: Prevention-oriented.
- ▶ Principle 5: Ensuring protection and empowerment of people and communities concerned.

### 1.2.2 Survey and Questionnaire Design

The target of this survey was defined to include three complementary groups as follows:

- ▶ Civil society and community representatives — i.e. Sihanoukville-based Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), residents in general and vulnerable groups in particular, academics, university students, small business owners, etc.;

<sup>1</sup> Human Security Handbook, “An integrated approach for the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals and the priority areas of the international community and the United Nations system”. United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security, January 2016 (47 pages).

- ▶ Private sector representatives — i.e. business executives, investors, Special Economic Zone (SEZ) representatives, chambers of commerce representatives, etc.;
- ▶ Public sector representatives — i.e. Province Governor, representatives of Provincial Departments, representatives of Central Government, etc.

### Questionnaire destined to the civil society —

The questionnaire destined to the civil society covered the seven human security areas defined by the HSF. From the preliminary desk-based research conducted at the beginning of the project and from the existing expertise in the project team, three “key themes” were presented to survey participants as guiding questions for each of the 7 main human security areas.

Table 1. Human Security Areas and Key

Type of human insecurities	Key and context-specific themes
Economic security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Asset and debt.</li> <li>▶ Employment and income level.</li> <li>▶ Business opportunities, business conditions.</li> </ul>
Food security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Affordability of basic food products, volatility of prices, etc.</li> <li>▶ Dietary balance diets, protein intake, etc.</li> <li>▶ Access to drinkable water.</li> </ul>
Health security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Access to medical facilities and services for adults.</li> <li>▶ Access to medical facilities and services for children.</li> <li>▶ Information/education on health and disease prevention.</li> </ul>
Environmental security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Exposure to risks linked with quality of air, water and other natural resources in the city.</li> <li>▶ Exposure to risks linked with degradation of ecosystems, forests, beaches and other green areas in the city.</li> <li>▶ Exposure to risks linked with non-compliance with construction rules, environmental approvals, Occupational/Health/Safety standards and all other standards applying to human constructions and designs.</li> </ul>
Personal security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Risk of exposure to any form of physical violence for adults and children.</li> <li>▶ Risk of exposure to illegal drugs for adults and children.</li> <li>▶ Risk of exposure to human trafficking for adults and children.</li> </ul>
Community security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Exposure to inter-ethnic tensions.</li> <li>▶ Exposure to organised crime.</li> <li>▶ Exposure to urban hazards (road traffic, building safety, electrical hazards, etc.).</li> </ul>
Fairness of institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Exposure to risks linked with unfair resolutions of disputes, unfair justice management and lack of access to remedies.</li> <li>▶ Exposure to political repression or repression in any form.</li> <li>▶ Exposure to unfair acquisition of land, properties/businesses, eviction and resettlement.</li> </ul>

Themes. The questionnaire destined to the civil society was designed to support a trend analysis regarding all 7 human security areas and 21 key themes; capture interviewees' visions of a smart Sihanoukville City; glean suggestions on preventive/protective measures; and build a sense of existing resources, opportunities and willingness of the civil society to participate in a positive transformation if empowered adequately.

The method for survey data collection included conducting semi-structured interviews with participants facilitated by a team of four Cambodian nationals, collecting transcripts of responses in Khmer language and, with the consent of participants, capturing an audio record of the interview for the exclusive use by the ARIEL team of analysts.

Interviewees were invited to provide context-specific details to substantiate all information, perception, suggestion, etc.

### Questions destined to the public sector —

#### A questionnaire destined to Provincial Departments of the Preah Sihanouk Province covered the following questions:

- ▶ Aside from strategic plans institutionalised by RGC at national level, does your Department hold a specific strategic plan for the Preah Sihanouk Province?
- ▶ About your Department's Development Plan:
  - o Has ICT been identified as a priority?
  - o Has e-Governance been identified as a priority? If so, for which specific goals or purposes? 3.
- ▶ Regarding your Department's capacity regarding ICT and e-Governance at present:
  - o At present, which are the top priority needs for ICT equipment (computers, networking equipment, application hosting services, etc.)?
  - o At present, beyond the use of MS-Word/Excel/Powerpoint and web browsers, are there other usages of ICT for back-office tasks? for e-Governance tasks?
  - o At present, are MS-Excel or other ICT tools used for data analytics? If so, for which specific purpose?
  - o At present, are Geographical Information Systems (GIS) used? If so, for which specific purpose?
  - o At present, is ICT used for streamlining business processes? If so, how?

### Questions destined to the private sector —

#### A questionnaire destined to two Special Economic Zones (SEZ), professional bodies and large corporations covered the following questions.

- ▶ What is your definition of a "Smart City" in general? Which are the minimum requirements for a city, for an urban environment to be "smart"?
- ▶ What is your vision of a positive transformation of Sihanoukville that will make it a "Smart City"?
- ▶ How many years, do you think, will it take to turn Sihanoukville into a "Smart City"? Which will be the main steps in that journey?
- ▶ Which role do you envision the Sihanoukville Special Economic Zone (SSEZ) will play to foster a positive transformation and turn Sihanoukville into a "Smart City"?
- ▶ Do you think that it is the role of the private sector in general, and SSEZ in particular, to ensure that Sihanoukville keeps developing in a way that is environmentally sustainable? If so, to which extent or in which ways would the SSEZ contribute to that effect?
- ▶ Do you think that it is the role of the private sector in general, and SSEZ in particular, to help foster a local economic model that promotes inclusive business? If so, to which extent or in which ways would the SSEZ contribute to that effect?
- ▶ How much decentralisation, how much autonomy of decision at local level, in your opinion, is required for accelerating that positive transformation of Sihanoukville?
- ▶ Which economic sectors are likely to become the drivers of the Sihanoukville economy in the next 10 years?
- ▶ Which particular skillsets should be strengthened in schools, universities and vocational training centres to serve the needs of investors in the next 10 years?
- ▶ How likely is the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Sihanoukville to diversify in the next 10 years in terms of economic activities? in terms of geographical origins?

#### A questionnaire destined to two Special Economic Zones (SEZ), professional bodies and large corporations covered the following questions.

- ▶ What is your definition of a “Smart City” in general? Which are the minimum requirements for a city, for an urban environment to be “smart”?
  - ▶ What is your vision of a positive transformation of Sihanoukville that will make it a “Smart City”?
  - ▶ How many years, do you think, will it take to turn Sihanoukville into a “Smart City”? Which will be the main steps in that journey?
  - ▶ Which role do you envision the Sihanoukville Special Economic Zone (SSEZ) will play to foster a positive transformation and turn Sihanoukville into a “Smart City”?
  - ▶ Do you think that it is the role of the private sector in general, and SSEZ in particular, to ensure that Sihanoukville keeps developing in a way that is environmentally sustainable? If so, to which extent or in which ways would the SSEZ contribute to that effect?
  - ▶ Do you think that it is the role of the private sector in general, and SSEZ in particular, to help foster a local economic model that promotes inclusive business? If so, to which extent or in which ways would the SSEZ contribute to that effect?
  - ▶ How much decentralisation, how much autonomy of decision at local level, in your opinion, is required for accelerating that positive transformation of Sihanoukville?
  - ▶ Which economic sectors are likely to become the drivers of the Sihanoukville economy in the next 10 years?
  - ▶ Which particular skillsets should be strengthened in schools, universities and vocational training centres to serve the needs of investors in the next 10 years?
  - ▶ How likely is the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Sihanoukville to diversify in the next 10 years in terms of economic activities? in terms of geographical origins?
- iii. Vision of Sihanoukville smart city;
  - iv. Suggestions of preventive and protective measures;
  - v. Existing resources, opportunities and willingness to participate in the positive transformation to come if empowered adequately; and

2. Compiling individual data into a single synthesis under each of the 7 HSF areas — **presented in Annex-1** (16 pages).

The second step focused on responding to three requirements of the human security framework, namely:

3. Identifying factors, interlinkages and root causes informed by survey data, desk-based research and team expertise — **presented in Chapter 3**;
4. Analysing root causes/factors upstream and proposing prevention measures accordingly— **presented in Section 4.1**; and,
5. Analysing root causes/factors downstream and proposing protection measures accordingly— **presented in Section 4.2**.

The third step selected the three smart city model’s attributes as analytical lens, i.e.:

6. Conducting a smart city readiness assessment from the angle of Inclusiveness — **presented in Section 0**;
7. Conducting a smart city readiness assessment from the angle of Sustainability — **presented in Section 5.2**; and,
8. Conducting a smart city readiness assessment from the angle of Smart Engagement — **presented in Section 5.3**.

## 1.3 Achievements and Limitations of Actual Research

### 1.3.1 On Meeting the First Methodology Imperative — People-Centred

Despite the constraints due to the COVID-19 pandemic weighing heavily on the project in general and the organisation of the survey in particular, the ARIEL team was able to spend 3 weeks in Sihanoukville as per the original plan, meet with 27 individuals or CSO representatives and collect information on a population of over 10,000 residents.

#### Profiles break down as follows:

- ▶ Residents from vulnerable backgrounds.
- ▶ Employers and employees of small/micro businesses

### 1.2.3 Analytical Process

The analytical process comprised three main steps.

The first step, also the lowest level of analysis, concentrated on organising data into a cohesive picture by:

1. Reviewing individual survey transcripts and producing English language transcripts structured as follows<sup>2</sup>:

- i. Personal profile data;
- ii. Trend analysis covering all 7 human security areas, 21 key themes and additional themes addressed by the survey participant;

<sup>2</sup> English language compilations were delivered to OHCHR in April 2021 as a standalone output.



in Sihanoukville.

- ▶ local CSOs.
- ▶ Full-time Academia employees in Sihanoukville.
- ▶ University students in Sihanoukville.
- ▶ Full-time employee of a Provincial Department or Preah Sihanouk Province.

### 1.3.2 On Meeting the Second Methodology Imperative — Comprehensive

As far as consultations with civil society are concerned, the spectrum of profiles of actual survey participants was fairly broad and representative of Sihanoukville residents.

However, from the point of view of consultation with private sector representatives and data collection from public sector entities, the research process was severely hampered by the covid19 outbreak which began at the end of February 2021 and expanded in March and April 2021, exactly at the same period as planned for the project's field visits and data collection. Despite the combined efforts from the ARIEL team and the project stakeholders on the United Nations side<sup>3</sup>, due to the Covid19 pandemic, the concerns of private sector executives and Provincial authorities remained focused on managing those pandemic-related contingencies and did not allow time to address the survey.

Only a few interviews could be conducted with owners of businesses from the Micro and Small ends of the Micro-Small-Medium Enterprise (MSME) spectrum — thereby leaving a gap in the study in terms of consultations with the medium & large end of the spectrum. The requests directed to the Sihanoukville Port Special Economic Zone (SPSEZ) were left unanswered. The Chairman of the Sihanoukville Special Economic Zone (SSEZ) did acknowledge receipt of a Chinese translation of a questionnaire designed to collect his vision of a smart city developmental model and the potential role of the SSEZ in a positive transformation — which the Chairman ultimately rejected as not relevant.

That gap was bridged by collecting insights from

members of a prominent foreign chamber of commerce in Cambodia, namely the Real Estate & Construction Committee and the Green Business Committee of the European Chamber of Commerce in Cambodia (also known as EuroCham). The ARIEL team's expertise<sup>4</sup> was also brought to bear.

This study benefited from insights shared by the Department of Education and the Department of Tourism of the Preah Sihanouk Province, and by the National Council for Sustainable Development (NCSD) at the central level. While the Governor clearly expressed the intention of his administration to collaborate with the project during the Sihanoukville Smart City Committee meeting held 23 February 2021, the ARIEL team was left with a small data gap due to the COVID-19 pandemic related issues. That gap was bridged by carrying out supplementary desk-based research on the national strategic plans, on the law of administration (presented in Section 2.1), and opportunities for empowering local decision-making, planning and execution (presented in Section 5.3).

### 1.3.3 On Meeting the Third Methodology Imperative — Context-Specific

The team spent a total of 3 weeks in Sihanoukville organising consultations at a specific venue or conducting interviews online, at participants' discretion. In addition, a field visit was scheduled on Monday 8 March 2021 where the team<sup>5</sup> visited a Fishing Village.

The team consulted with Sihanoukville residents who reported being actual subjects or witnesses of various types of human insecurity including, but not restricted to rising debt levels; loss of employment; loss of business; loss of property assets due to land rights abuses; difficulty to afford food; discrimination while accessing public healthcare services; domestic violence; dangerous and frequent flooding episodes; fear from road traffic risks; exposure to drug trafficking, organised crime and entailing violence; unfair treatment from law enforcement authorities; and unfair judicial decisions over land right disputes and other kinds of grievance. An account is provided in Chapter 4 and Annex-1

<sup>3</sup> See Section 1.1.2. Project Proponents

<sup>4</sup> Dr Eric Mousset has been supporting the development of the private sector in Cambodia for over a decade, acting as Chairman and Board of Directors member of the French Chamber of Commerce in Cambodia; authoring a Draft SME Development Policy in 2017, and; lecturing the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and Business Ethics topics at postgraduate level at the Royal University of Law and Economics (RULE) to Cambodian professionals.

<sup>5</sup> In fact, a subset of the team comprising three Cambodian nationals



## 2 Country-Specific Context

The purpose of this section is to provide brief background material relevant to positioning the strategic recommendations in Chapters 5 and 6.

### 2.1 Review of the Structure of the Cambodian Administration

This section presents background material on the legal framework of public administration at central and sub-national levels in Cambodia, highlighting the hierarchy of authority across levels, as well as the mechanisms for the delegation of functions from central to local levels. It serves as an introductory reading to the recommendations set out in Chapter 5, which emphasize the potential benefits of a smart city developmental model that empowers local levels of governance. The reader who is already familiar with the Cambodian administration's legal structure may wish to skip to the next section.

Under the existing constitutional and legal framework, the top two levels of the hierarchy are “Reach Theany” (Capital City) and “Khet” (Provinces). Provinces comprise the following two levels “Krong” (municipalities) and “Srok” (districts), the latter being sub-divided as “Khum” (communes) and “Sangkats” (counties).<sup>6</sup> The Preah Sihanouk Province comprises 3 districts and 2 municipalities including the Sihanoukville Municipality (formerly Mittakpheap). The latter is further sub-divided into 5 Sangkats: Sangkat Muoy Commune, Sangkat Pi Commune, Sangkat Bei Commune, Sangkat Buon

Commune and Sangkat Koh Rong. The Sihanoukville port has its own autonomous administration.

Sihanoukville is the capital city of Sihanoukville province and is governed by its deputy governor.

The Cambodian legal framework includes important provisions that define mechanisms of delegation of authority and responsibility from the upper two levels — i.e. Capital City and Provinces — to the sub-national levels under provincial authority.

The National Committee for Sub-National Democratic Development (NCDD) was established by Royal Decree number នស/រកត/១២០៨/១៤២៩, dated 31 December 2008. It is accountable to the RGC for the

implementation of the Law on Administrative Management of the Capital, Provinces, Municipalities, Districts and Khans (Organic Law), the Law on Administrative Management of Communes/Sangkats and Decentralization and Deconcentration policy. In particular: “Consult, discuss and coordinate with all ministries/institutions in reviewing functions and responsibilities of the ministries/institutions, departments, units and authorities at all levels in order to identify functions, responsibilities, power and accountability for transferring to sub-national councils” (excerpt from NCDD website). Examples of functions that may be delegated to local authorities include:

- ▶ Agriculture;
- ▶ Education;
- ▶ Forestry, natural resources and environment;
- ▶ Health, nutrition and services for people including other needs of women, men, youth, children, vulnerable groups and indigenous people;
- ▶ Industry and support to economic development;
- ▶ Land use;
- ▶ Electricity production and distribution;
- ▶ Water management;
- ▶ Infrastructure and facilities that are necessary to support and facilitate these responsibilities; and
- ▶ Particular or special needs for the Capital, Province, Municipality, District, Khan, commune and Sangkat including tourism, historical sites and cultural heritage. In addition, the Royal Kram No.0301/05 dated 19 March 2001 promulgating the Law on the Administration and Management of Commune/Sangkat, art. 43 sets out the missions of Communes and Sangkats as follows:
  - ▶ “Maintain security and public order.
  - ▶ Organise and manage the necessary public services.

<sup>6</sup> The literature at hand proposes a variety of translations of sub-national levels from Khmer to English. The translation proposed in this paragraph is not official and provided only as a guide to the reader for distinguishing between the various sub-divisions. The term “Sangkat” is used as is in the rest of this document.

- ▶ Encourage hygiene conditions and welfare of citizens.
- ▶ Promote socioeconomic development and improvement of living standards of citizens.
- ▶ Protect and preserve the environment, natural resources, cultural and national heritage.
- ▶ Promote dialogue, tolerance and mutual understanding among citizens.
- ▶ Carry out general duties to respond to citizens' needs."

Residents of a smart city will strive to keep Communes and Sangkats accountable for all of the above. The Royal Kram No. NS/RKM/0508/017 promulgating the Law on Administrative Management of the Capital, Provinces, Municipalities, Districts and Khans. Article 51 states that: "The council shall create favourable conditions for the public when disseminating public information on reports, agenda of meetings, minutes of meeting, bylaw, laws, royal decrees, sub-decrees and Prakas relating to the council and other documents of the council". Article 52: "Each council shall have a public information board or other means of information dissemination at its main office and in other places within its jurisdiction that are easily accessed by citizens for public information." — The elaboration of a smart city developmental plan for Sihanoukville ought to seize the opportunity to modernise the means of

information dissemination beyond the use of a mere public information board. Consultations — The adoption procedure for local decrees ("Deika") also implies public consultation:

- ▶ Women, youth, vulnerable groups and ethnic minorities must be consulted systematically<sup>7</sup>.
- ▶ The law includes a provision for residents to instigate the proposal of a Deika in case 10% of households

in the jurisdiction choose so<sup>8</sup>.

- ▶ The Commune Council may rely on private sector companies and/or civil society representatives to help conduct needs assessments<sup>9</sup>.
- ▶ When the Commune Council considers that a Deika is not sufficiently clear for resolving a sensitive matter, the law includes a provision for the Commune Council to request an advice by the Ministry of Interior within 30 days<sup>10</sup>.
- ▶ Every project of Deika must be the object of public consultation. The Commune must provide an effective mechanism for collecting comments from residents<sup>11</sup>

### **Obligatory functions vs. permissive functions<sup>12</sup> —**

As per Sub Decree No. 285 ANK. BK dated 18 November 2014 on The Selection, Management, Arrangement and Execution of Permissive Functions by Sub-National Administration, art. 5: "The selection of permissive functions by Sub-National Administration shall be based on the following principles: - Are not prohibited by existing laws, legal documents;

- ▶ Are under the jurisdiction of the council;
- ▶ Can be managed and implemented efficiently based on the ability and resources of subnational council;
- ▶ Serve or provide benefits mainly to citizens in the jurisdiction of the council;
- ▶ Are based on the need of citizens or local priorities in their jurisdiction, especially the needs of women, children and the vulnerable people."

**Article 7:** "The management, arrangement and execution of permissive functions shall be based on the principles of efficiency, transparency, accountability, consultation, inclusiveness and equity."

7 Sub Decree No. 286 ANK.BK dated 18 November 2014 on Procedures for the Preparation, Amendment to and Repeal of Deikas of the Capital Council and Provincial, District, Municipal and Khan Councils, art. 19.

8 Sub Decree No. 286 ANK.BK dated 18 November 2014 on Procedures for the Preparation, Amendment to and Repeal of Deikas of the Capital Council and Provincial, District, Municipal and Khan Councils, Art. 15: "The initiative for determination of need for a Deika based on the local needs could be raised by: the council chairperson, or at least one-third of all councilors, or council committees, or governor or board of governors, or Association of Municipality, District Khan, Commune, Sangkat in the jurisdiction of respective council, or one-tenth (1/10) of total households within each council jurisdiction."

9 Sub Decree No. 286 ANK.BK dated 18 November 2014 on Procedures for the Preparation, Amendment to and Repeal of Deikas of the Capital Council and Provincial, District, Municipal and Khan Councils, art. 17.

10 Royal Kram No. NS/RKM/0508/017 promulgating the Law on Administrative Management of the Capital, Provinces, Municipalities, Districts and Khans, art. 82. Sub Decree No. 286 ANK.BK dated 18 November 2014 on Procedures for the Preparation, Amendment to and Repeal of Deikas of the Capital Council and Provincial, District, Municipal and Khan Councils, art. 20.

11 Sub Decree No. 286 ANK.BK dated 18 November 2014 on Procedures for the Preparation, Amendment to and Repeal of Deikas of the Capital Council and Provincial, District, Municipal and Khan Councils, art. 22-23.

12 As per Royal Kram No.0301/05 dated 19 March 2001 promulgating the Law on the Administration and Management of Commune/Sangkat, art. 45, communes and Sangkats are prohibited to make decisions and take actions pertaining to the following matters: Forests; Posts and telecommunications; National defence; National security; Monetary matters; Foreign policy; Fiscal policy.

## Technical committees —

Commune Councils must comprise three committees: Technical Facilitation Committee; Women's and Children's Consultative Committee (WCCC), and Procurement Committee. The WCCC is expected to publish an annual report covering the following matters<sup>13</sup>:

- ▶ The general situation of women's participation in promoting democratic development and the status of children under jurisdiction of the council;
- ▶ Achievements and challenges of the Women's and Children's Consultative Committee; and recommendations for strengthening this committee;
- ▶ Recommendations for improving women's participation in promoting democratic development.

More precisely, the mandate of the WCCC covers the following scope<sup>14</sup>:

- ▶ Participate in the development of a strategic vision for development in the jurisdiction of the council, and the achievement of gender equality and the provision of services with regard to women, youth and children;
- ▶ Collect and analyse information and data related to the achievement of gender equality and issues and needs of women and children and integrate this information into the Council Five (05) Year Development Plans and the Three (03) Year Rolling Investment Program;
- ▶ Prepare its workplan and annual budget and to incorporate them into the workplan and budget of the council;
- ▶ Participate in the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of the annual work plan and budget of the Council in order to promote gender equality and to address issues concerning women, youth and children;
- ▶ Provide recommendations and advocate for action to the councils, and through the council to the board of governors, and other committees of the council, on issues related to gender equality and women, youth and children within the jurisdiction of the councils;
- ▶ Cooperate and provide support to the WCCCs of the other councils in resolving any problems or requests which cannot be addressed by those committees in performing their functions;

- ▶ Provide suggestions and recommendations to the council or boards of governors on appropriate measures to be taken by competent authorities and citizens to resolve issues and prevent harm relating to women, youth and children;
- ▶ Seek and receive information related to the work of the WCCC;
- ▶ Promote understanding of laws and policies related to gender equality and women, youth and children issues in the jurisdiction of the councils;
- ▶ Promote information collection by the communities on what happens regularly regarding gender equality, women, youth and children in order to take necessary measures for a response;
- ▶ Advocate for women to participate in decision-making relating to development within the councils' jurisdiction;
- ▶ Provide suggestions and recommendations to promote communication, collaboration and coordination between different categories of councils, departments, units, service providers, NGOs, volunteer groups and communities to ensure activities are implemented to help women, youth and children;
- ▶ Monitor the implementation of policies on gender equality and the situation of women, youth and children, especially to identify disparities in access to services, and to recommend means for addressing disparities;
- ▶ Report on a regular basis to the council on gender equality, women's empowerment and issues involving youth and children;
- ▶ Support all efforts to mobilize funds for work within the councils' jurisdiction, and;
- ▶ Perform other duties as assigned by the council."

## Elections and responsibilities of commune and Sangkat councils —

Commune and Sangkat Councils are elected directly and must comprise 5 to 11 residents of Cambodian nationality and 25 year of age minimum, for a 5-year mandate<sup>15</sup>. Those have autonomy of decision and action on several levels<sup>16</sup>, including: a consultation process with the public within its jurisdiction and dissemination of information to citizens; a three-year (3) rolling investment program and five-year (5) development plan of the council, and an annual budget plan and

13 Royal Kram No. NS/RKM/0508/017 promulgating the Law on Administrative Management of the Capital, Provinces, Municipalities, Districts and Khans, art. 127-135.

14 Prakas No. 4275 BrK [Mol] dated 30 December 2009 on The Establishment and Functioning of the Women's and Children's Consultative Committees at Capital Council, Provincial Councils, Municipal Councils, District Councils and Khan Councils, art. 7

15 Royal Kram No.0301/05 dated 19 March 2001 promulgating the Law on the Administration and Management of Commune/Sangkat, art. 9 and following

16 Royal Kram No. NS/RKM/0508/017 promulgating the Law on Administrative Management of the Capital, Provinces, Municipalities, Districts and Khans, art. 24

expenditure plan for the mid-term period. Members of the Commune Council may conduct enquiries or survey regarding any matter of interest for the local jurisdiction so as to inform further decision-making by the Province Governor or the Council of Governors<sup>17</sup> — an existing mechanism which Sihanoukville residents may wish to leverage for informing decisions made at Provincial level.

The 5-year Commune Development Plan must be approved by the Commune Council during the first year of its mandate and be reviewed annually. By law<sup>18</sup>, the Commune Council must define a method of public consultation underpinning the elaboration of that plan. A copy of the annual report on performance monitoring must be made accessible to the public.

The participation of private companies in that public consultation is indeed encouraged. Quoting the Sub-decree No. 182 dated 2 December 2019 on functions and structure of municipal administrations, art. 48.: “The working relations between the municipal administration and private sector and civil society operating within its jurisdiction include:

- ▶ The municipal administration may facilitate and encourage private sector and civil society to participate in the formulation and implementation of a five (5) year development plan, a three-year (3) rolling investment program, workplan, project or programs of the municipal administration — which is directly relevant in the context of a smart city;
- ▶ The municipal administration may coordinate for establishment of partnerships with private sector and civil society to jointly promote public service delivery and local development in response to people’s prioritized needs — which is directly relevant in the context of a smart city;
- ▶ The municipal administration may support private sector and civil society for providing public services and local development based on availability of the resources of the municipal administration — which may be leveraged to implement preventive and protective measures set forth in Sections 4.1 and 4.2;
- ▶ The municipal administration encourages private sector and civil society to initiate the voice of citizen’s needs and requests for municipal administration to issue Deika or decision or provide interventions — an opportunity which the private sector and civil society ought to seize in the context of a smart city;
- ▶ The municipal administration shall hold regular meetings with private sector and civil society to jointly address the challenges” — an existing provision

which the private sector and civil society should harness for the purpose of smart engagement.

According to Royal Kram No. NS/RKM/0508/017 promulgating the Law on Administrative Management of the Capital, Provinces, Municipalities, Districts and Khans, art. 39, the Commune Council must take the following matters into consideration:

- ▶ “Assessment of the level of existing development status within its jurisdiction and the assessment of the priority development needs in respect to the following:
  - o Needs of the council in preparing to receive the transfer of new functions, duties and resources;
  - o Basic and necessary services, facilities, materials and public infrastructure;
  - o Reduction of poverty;
  - o Other needs of women, men, youth, children and vulnerable groups including poor people and indigenous people.
- ▶ A development framework which describes basic principles for the use and management of land and natural resources in that area;
- ▶ A disaster management plan;
- ▶ A financial plan which includes a capital development plan, a twelve-month (12) budget plan from the time of formulating the plan and a three-year (3) budget plan from the time of formulating the plan which will be updated annually;
- ▶ A strategy for the implementation of the council’s development plan to ensure transparency and accountability to all citizens within its jurisdiction;
- ▶ Key performance indicators and targets related to development objectives and priorities within the development plan.”

Procedures for consultation, formulation, management and execution of the Commune development plan are determined by sub-decrees by the Ministry of Interior. The Commune Council must distinguish clearly between ‘obligatory’ functions and ‘permissive’ functions (see comments above on permissive functions).

## 2.2 Review of National Strategic Planning Documents

This section presents the hierarchy of national strategic plans and highlights potential overlaps with the present human security and smart city readiness assessment.

<sup>17</sup> Royal Kram No. NS/RKM/0508/017 promulgating the Law on Administrative Management of the Capital, Provinces, Municipalities, Districts and Khans, art. 24

<sup>18</sup> Royal Kram No.0301/05 dated 19 March 2001 promulgating the Law on the Administration and Management of Commune/Sangkat, art. 60-72.

## Rectangular Strategy - Phase IV —

The top of the pyramid is the “Rectangular Strategy – Phase IV” (RSP-IV) which conveys the strategic vision of the Prime Minister for the Sixth Legislature 2018-2023, each of the four Rectangles being relevant to the objectives of the present smart city readiness assessment, namely:

- ▶ Rectangle 1 – Human resource development: 1) Improving the quality of education, science and technology; 2) Vocational training; 3) Improving public healthcare and nutrition; and 4) Strengthening gender equality and social protection.
- ▶ Rectangle 2 – Economic Diversifications: 1) Improving logistics system and enhancing transport, energy and digital connectivity; 2) Developing key and new sources of economic growth; 3) Readiness for digital economy and industrial revolution 4.0; and 4) Promoting financial and banking sector development.
- ▶ Rectangle 3 – Promotion of private sector development and employment: 1) Job market development; 2) Promotion of SME and entrepreneurship; 3) Public-private partnership; and 4) Enhanced competitiveness.
- ▶ Rectangle 4 – Inclusive and sustainable development: 1) Promotion of agricultural and rural development; 2) Strengthening sustainable management of natural and cultural resources; 3) Strengthening management of urbanization; and 4) Ensuring environment sustainability and readiness for climate change.

The acceleration of governance reforms is presented as a core strategic objective: “The strategic objective of the governance is the modernization of government institutions and inclusive, equitable and just development through exercising political, economic, and administrative power in governing and managing the national affairs, especially in ensuring sustainable role and function of the public administration by focusing on People-Centric interest and the Nation-State Building.” The RSP-IV reminds the progress made by the RGC under the previous three phases, “in modernizing its governance system through corruption fighting, legal and judicial reform, public administration reform, decentralization and de-concentration reform, public financial management reform, and armed forces reform”. The RSP-IV adds that in the sixth Legislature of the National Assembly, the Royal Government is expected to “strengthen leadership, sense of ownership and responsibility and internal unity of the institutions, formulation and strict implementation of the code of conduct, and selection of quality people with high qualification for the management position in the public sector”.

Another objective set out in the RSP-IV, that is particularly relevant to any smart city developmental endeavour, is to contribute to the attainment of the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 — with a specific focus on “Cambodia Sustainable Development Goals”.

## National Strategic Development Plan, 2019-2023 —

The “Political Platform of the Royal Government of the Sixth Legislature of the National Assembly” and the “Rectangular Strategy-Phase IV”, combined, act as a comprehensive policy framework for

formulating the “National Strategic Development Plan, 2019-2023” (NSDP 2019-2023). The latter is further used as a pivotal reference document for the entirety of the RGC.

As reminded in the introduction of the NSDP 2019-2023, a significant advance development has been Cambodia’s endorsement of the global Sustainable Development Goals in September 2015 and, more recently, the definition of the Cambodia SDG (CSDG) Framework: “As set out in the CSDG Framework, these are made up of made up of: 18 goals (being the global 17 plus an additional goal in respect of mine action and the removal of explosive remnants of war); 88 targets, selected from the global set which are relevant to Cambodia, and 148 indicators made up of a proportion taken directly from the global framework, proxies to substitute for missing indicators, and nationally derived measures.”

The NSDP 2019-2023 provides strategic direction and guidance in the following areas, all of which are of potential relevance to any smart city development effort including this Sihanoukville for All project:

- ▶ Establishing good governance, fighting corruption, and carrying out legal, judicial and public administration reform;
- ▶ Maintaining the conditions for peace and public order;
- ▶ Promoting partnerships in development;
- ▶ Promoting the agricultural sector by improving its productivity, diversification and commercialisation;
- ▶ Promoting the sustainable management of natural resources;
- ▶ Developing physical infrastructure — transport and urban infrastructure; water resources and irrigation system management; electrical power supply; information and communication technology (ICT);
- ▶ Promoting private sector development and employment — strengthening of the private sector



and promoting investment and business; development of industry and small and medium enterprises (SMEs); development of the labour market;

- ▶ Strengthening the Enhancing Education, Science and Technology and Technical Training;
- ▶ Promoting health and nutrition;
- ▶ Developing the social protection system; and
- ▶ Enhancing the implementation of population policy and gender equity.

Importantly, effective urban management is identified under the NSDP 2019-2023 as a policy priority.

### Ministry-level and inter-ministerial strategic plans —

Further in the hierarchy of strategic planning are Ministry-level and inter-ministerial strategic plans. Of particular relevance to any smart city development initiative are:

- ▶ **The Industrial Development Policy 2015-2025** — the fourth and last pillar of which implies “coordinating supporting policies such as human resource development, skills training and industrial relations improvement, implementation of land management, urbanization and land use plan in line with the Land Policy and the National Policy on Land Management together with infrastructure development, including transport/logistics system and digital connectivity, electricity and clean water supply and other supporting services such as public services, social services and financial services”;
- ▶ **The Education Strategic Plan 2019-2023** — which articulates with CSDGs 2016-2030, RSP-IV and, in particular, SDG 4 on the Education Road Map 2030 and includes specific provisions for promoting digital education, gender mainstreaming, and accelerating the implementation of the decentralization and de-concentration (D&D) reform;
- ▶ **The Health Strategic Plan 2016-2020** — which recognises as key features: moving towards Universal Health Coverage; investments in stronger competency-based education and wellfunctioning quality monitoring and regulatory mechanisms to further promote quality of health care service at both public and private sector; reducing gaps in availability of affordable, quality, safe and effective health services across geographical locations; promoting equity through “risk-sharing arrangements”; and progressive delegation of regulatory functions to subnational level administrations.

### Sustainable City Strategic Plan 2020-2030 for Secondary Cities —

Of particular interest to this Sihanoukville smart city developmental project is the “Sustainable City Strategic Plan 2020-2030 for Secondary Cities” by the National Council for Sustainable Development (NCS), General Department of Administration of the Ministry of Interior, and Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI). It is a 10-year strategic document that provides guidance to address urban development challenges, ensure good governance, and provide a green growth roadmap for sustainable city development — reflecting the RGC’s strong commitment to urban development under the RSP-IV and the National Program for Sub-National Democratic Development. It also reflects the commitment of the Ministry of Interior to implement the Law on Administrative Management of the Capital, Provinces, Municipalities, Districts, and Khans and the Law on Administrative Management of the Communes and Sangkats. The seven target cities include Sihanoukville, along with Siem Reap, Battambang, Kep, Kampong Cham, Bavet and Suong.

## 2.3 Review of National Environmental and Development Planning

### 2.3.1 Relevant National Policy Frameworks

The National Environment Strategy and Action Plan 2016-2023 (NESAP)<sup>19</sup> was adopted by the RGC in

2017, in accordance with Article 59 of the Constitution to “help Cambodia to achieve sustainable development goals and strengthen cooperation between ministries, institutions and stakeholders who are responsible for sustainable development goals given that environment is a cross-cutting issue”.

NESAP is a commitment to sustainable development. The vision of NESAP is:

“To strengthen enabling conditions and leverage for the environment and natural resources management and conservation for sustainable and stable socioeconomic development in Cambodia” (NESAP p.26).

Cambodia’s National Policy on Green Growth was approved by the Council of Ministers in March 2013. The policy is envisaged “to strike a balance of economic development with environment,

<sup>19</sup> [https://policy.asiapacificenergy.org/sites/default/files/National%20Environment%20Strategy%20and%20Action%20Plan\\_NESAP\\_2016-2023.pdf](https://policy.asiapacificenergy.org/sites/default/files/National%20Environment%20Strategy%20and%20Action%20Plan_NESAP_2016-2023.pdf)



society, culture and sustainable use of national resources through integration, matching and adaptation, as well as harmonization between a green growth principle and national policy". The policy aims at enhancing the wellbeing and livelihood of all people in harmonization with ecological safety through green growth, basing on green economy, blue economy, environment protection,

social safety nets system, and uphold of national cultural identity. The plan focuses on nine related strategic directions.

- ▶ Green Investment and Green Jobs Creation;
- ▶ Green Economy Management in balance with Environment;
- ▶ Blue Economy Development with Sustainability;
- ▶ Green Environment and Natural Resource Management;
- ▶ Human Resources Development and Green Education;
- ▶ Effective Green Technology Management;
- ▶ Promotion of a Green Social Safety System;
- ▶ Uphold and Protection of Green Cultural Heritage and National Identity;
- ▶ Good Governance on Green Growth.

Sustainable city development has been identified as a priority area for green growth planning and implementation, by the RGC, through its National Council for Sustainable Development (NCSD).

Sustainable City Development aims to deliver a holistic and integrated approach to urban planning, investment prioritisation and economic development in the urban context – simultaneously addressing climate change, resource efficiency, environmental sustainability, social inclusion and poverty alleviation.

The NCSD oversees the country efforts to promote sustainable development, and to ensure the

economic, environmental, social and cultural balance of the nation. The Council is mandated to prepare, coordinate and monitor the implementation of relevant policies, strategies, legal instruments, plans, and programmes in all areas of sustainable development and to monitor and report on Cambodia's implementation of its international commitments to the respective

international bodies.

### 2.3.2 Major Project Approval<sup>20</sup>

Under the current Environment Protection and Natural Resources Management Law 1996 (EPNRM Law), all investment-project applications and all projects proposed by the state shall have an Initial Environmental Impact Assessment (IEIA), report of pre-feasibility study, or an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) as specified in Article 6 of EPNRM Law (Articles 6 and 7). A copy must be submitted to the Project Approval Ministry/Institution and the Ministry of Environment (MoE).

The EIA Sub-Decree 1999 applies to all public and private projects or activities in Cambodia. The EIA

Sub-Decree identifies the specific project types covered by EIA. In total these cover four areas: industry, agriculture, tourism, and infrastructure. Under each area there are a number of specific projects types listed. This list has been attached as an annex to the EIA Sub-Decree. According to the list, the current screening process in Cambodia is project-based rather than by reference to significant environmental impact.

There are also a number of other Prakas and other guidelines on the procedures implementing the EIA Sub-Decree 1999. The Prakas on General Guidelines for Conducting Initial and Full Environmental Impact Assessment, 2009, provides general guidelines on the development of IEIAs and full EIAs (Article 1). The Prakas also includes a general guideline on the content of an IEIA or EIA Report and a check-list for scoping adverse impacts and mitigation measures. The Prakas also provides some definitions for the EIA process. The Prakas on Delegation of Power in Decision Making Representing the Ministry for the Investment Plan to Provincial/Municipal Department No: 230 BS. KB. 29- 07 -2005 (Article 2,3,4,5,6,8) provides that, for projects with less than US\$2 million in investment, the responsibility for reviewing and monitoring is delegated to the provincial department of environment.

Under the 2009 Prakas, once an IEIA or EIA is submitted to the Ministry it must be assessed within 30 days. Within this timeframe there is a requirement for a site visit and consultation with Project Affected Persons (PAP) and other stakeholders. Article 9 provides that the relevant national or Provincial Departments shall review and comment on the IEIA or full EIA Report. Importantly the EIA procedure also provides for mandatory public consultation during the EIA preparation and assessment

20 For convenience to the reader, the material under this heading is referenced from the chapter on Environmental Impact Assessment prepared by Matthew Baird (Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, 2020) <https://www.kas.de/documents/264850/8652138/Contemporary+Environmental+Law+in+Cambodia+and+Future+Perspectives.pdf>

process. This represents a significant opportunity for the community to participate in the planning and development process.

The MoE has established a review process for IEIA/ EIA Reports. This a two-stage review process firstly by EIA Coordination Working Group referred to as EIACWG, which is in framework of MOE providing initial assessments followed by an inter-Ministerial Review process. The Decision on the Composition and Duty Revision of EIA Condition Working Group for Reviewing and Commenting on EIA Report No.

013 2015 established the EIACWG for the review and consideration of IEIA and EIA reports for investment projects. The Department of EIA of MoE is the secretariat of the EIACWG (Article 3).

Following this technical review there is a further multi-stakeholder meeting that includes other Ministries and relevant stakeholders, during which the recommendations will be considered.

Following this meeting there will be the final recommendation to the Minister of Environment whether to approve or reject the IEIA or EIA. There will be an EIA Approval Certificate which will be issued together with any conditions imposed on the project.

All major projects, including the SEZ, Port Facilities, industrial zone, garment factories, tourism developments, roads, rail and other major projects require EIA approval prior to commencement of construction, making the law very relevant to numerous developments in progress or planned in Sihanoukville. However, reports of projects not complying with this process and the environmental and social impact of such non-compliances are numerous. Non-compliance with the EIA procedure for major projects and ensuring that the project proponents comply with the obligations contained within their permits, are a major source of environmental insecurity. The environmental consequences of these non-compliances with existing laws and regulations includes pollution of beaches, water pollutions, injuries to workers, air and noise pollution, traffic impacts and environmental degradation.

### 2.3.3 Urban Planning

The development of an (Urban) Master Plan is required under the Cambodian Urban Planning Law (1994). The Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction is currently updating the Urban Planning Law through its draft Law on Land Management and Urban Planning (2013), supported a National Urban Development Strategy (under development), for which

a national framework was developed in 2015-2016. Cambodia's urban regulations were strengthened in the sub-decree #42 on Urbanization for the Capital, City and Urban Areas (2015), which defines lot sizes and floor area ratios for different types of on-site developments and construction projects (residential, commercial or industrial). Building heights are also addressed, as well as on-site parking requirements. While the subdecree #42 does not address zoning or land-use issues, it strengthens regulations for future construction activities.

Cambodia's National Land Policy (2009) also provides a national framework for the administration and

management of land in Cambodia, supported by the National Policy on Spatial Planning (2011) and

the Spatial Planning Handbook (2013). Further to this, under the Organic Law of 2008, the National

Programme for Sub-National Democratic Development, provides for improved planning, financing and

management of services at the sub-national levels of government.

### 2.3.4 Drainage, Sanitation, Wastewater<sup>21</sup>

The legal framework for urban vulnerability sub-sectors, including urban sanitation, drainage and wastewater treatment, is complex, and managed between several ministries. The Ministry of Environment is responsible for administration of the Sub-decree #27 on Water Pollution Control (1999), which provides the standards for wastewater to be released into the environment. These pollution controls are now being updated through the development of the Natural Resources and

Environmental Code (drafted since 2015). Cambodia does not have a law governing wastewater treatment and sewerage, however there are several relevant policies and regulations. The Ministry of Land Management Urban Planning and Construction's (MLMUPC) Sub-Decree #86 for Construction Permits requires all houses/ buildings to install septic tank-based systems. Furthermore, the Sub-Decree #39 (2011) requires that developers should "put in place minimum infrastructure" including for "dirty water sewage and dirty water treatment station" (art 8). The Ministry of Public Works and Transport (MPWT) also has the National Policy for Water Supply and Sanitation (2003) and jointly with Mol and MoE developed a Sub-decree on the Management of the Sewerage System and Wastewater Treatment System (2017), which aims to decentralize the responsibilities for sewerage and

21 For convenience to the reader, the material under this heading is referenced from the Phnom Penh Sustainable City Plan 2018-2030, page 15 (Global Green Growth Institute, 2019).

wastewater management to the sub-national levels of government (municipality and/or district level).

To promote solid waste management and implementation, the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC), formulated Sub-Decree #113 (2015) on urban solid waste management and enforced in July 2015. This regulation aims to sustainably improve Municipal Solid Waste Management (MSWM) in a transparent and accountable manner in order to ensure environmental safeguard and stability. Cambodia has also adopted Sub-Decrees on e-waste (2016) and plastic bags (2017). A major challenge has been the implementation by local governments of the responsibility for waste management<sup>22</sup>.

### 2.3.5 Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction

Cambodia ratified the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, in 1996. The RGC adopted the Cambodia Climate Change Strategic Plan (CCCSP) (2014 – 2023) and Cambodia's first Interim National Determined Contribution (INDC) (2015) establishes that one of the objectives is to “Promote adaptive social protection and participatory approaches in reducing loss and damage due to climate change”.

The 2015 Law on Disaster Management (NS RKM/ 0715/ 007) does reference the need to address loss and/or damage in both pre and post disaster management “focusing on top priorities and basic needs of the affected people and Communities”.

Cambodia has developed a broad range of policy documents including strategic plans, action plans, guidelines and strategies to address climate change and disaster risk management.

Some of these policies connect loss and damage with displacement, forced relocation or migration.

The 2004 Policy Document of the National Committee for Disaster Management makes explicit reference to measures for displacement within Section IV(4) outlining that “selected safe areas have been recommended to be installed in high ground throughout target provinces, in order to receive flood victims, evacuated from flooded areas, and set up a systematic management to ensure the security, food supplies, water and sanitation

of the evacuated people”. There are several clauses within the 2006 National Adaptation Programme of Action to Climate Change (NAPA) which reference loss and damage including potential for migration and the 2014 Guidelines for Integrating Climate Change Considerations into Commune Development Planning presents options to “relocate some properties and infrastructure to locations which can be better protected from increasing climate change impacts”.

The Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) for Rural Development Sector (2014-2018) establishes that “Climate change (including natural disaster) is [a] key threat to rural infrastructure and people wellbeing in both rural areas and urban periphery” and “the loss of low-lying landmass in coastal areas, which could be ravaged by severe storms and increased sea-level rises, is likely to lead to displacement of populations, loss of life and damage to rural infrastructure”. The current version of the CCAP for Rural Development proposes adaptation measures through village development committees to address these threats however this is not sufficient to address the significant issue of climate change migration and displacement. In the context of the coastal zone area and Sihanoukville, climate change and disaster risk management consideration should form the fundamental constraints in planning for climate-safe infrastructure and the development of the SEZ and other industrial and commercial zones. Climate change induced risk goes beyond sea-level rise, coastal erosion and storm surges to challenges with water resources (saltwater intrusion) and impact of extreme heat on populations and worker health.

Climate action requires a holistic approach that embeds an intersectional, gender-transformative human-rights based approach to overcome the challenges summarised above. A recent report from UN Women Asia-Pacific also highlights the importance of ensuring that women and children in addressing the needs of climate change adaptation strategies<sup>23</sup>. One key recommendation is to “explicitly designate roles and responsibilities of women and marginalized groups in governance processes, to ensure their representation and meaningful participation in decision-making at all levels.” In the context of the development of a smart city this recommendation could be applied across the whole of government in Sihanoukville.

22 (Spoann & Fujiwara, 2020)

23 (Pross, Han, Kim, & Vigil, 2020)  
[https://policy.asiapacificenergy.org/sites/default/files/National%20Environment%20Strategy%20and%20Action%20Plan\\_NESAP\\_2016-2023.pdf](https://policy.asiapacificenergy.org/sites/default/files/National%20Environment%20Strategy%20and%20Action%20Plan_NESAP_2016-2023.pdf)



## 2.4 The Planning and Development Context for Sihanoukville

In 2010 the Minister of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction (MLMUPC) of the RGC commissioned a series of planning documents for both Sihanoukville and the coastal area of Cambodia. The objectives and key planning constraints outlined in the JICA supported National Integrated Strategy of the Coastal Area and Master Plan for Preah Sihanouk are still applicable to Sihanoukville in 2022 (Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), 2010)<sup>24</sup>. The Sihanoukville Master Plan<sup>25</sup> 2010 provided clear recommendations for planning and environmental controls that go to the core insecurities identified by the respondents in 2021. The human security assessment validates many of the recommendations from the Sihanoukville Master Plan 2010.

A development orientation and strategy of Preah Sihanouk province was proposed in accordance with the National Integrated Development Strategy for Coastal Area and Master Plan for Preah Sihanouk; as were an urban planning, environmental management plan, and an infrastructure development strategy. In addition, the 2010 Master Plan made detailed recommendations on height limits and building codes. Many issues raised by the respondents relate to the issues identified by the JICA Study Team and the recommendations made in 2010.

Finally, a detailed land use planning was proposed for the designated urban area — see Figure 1.

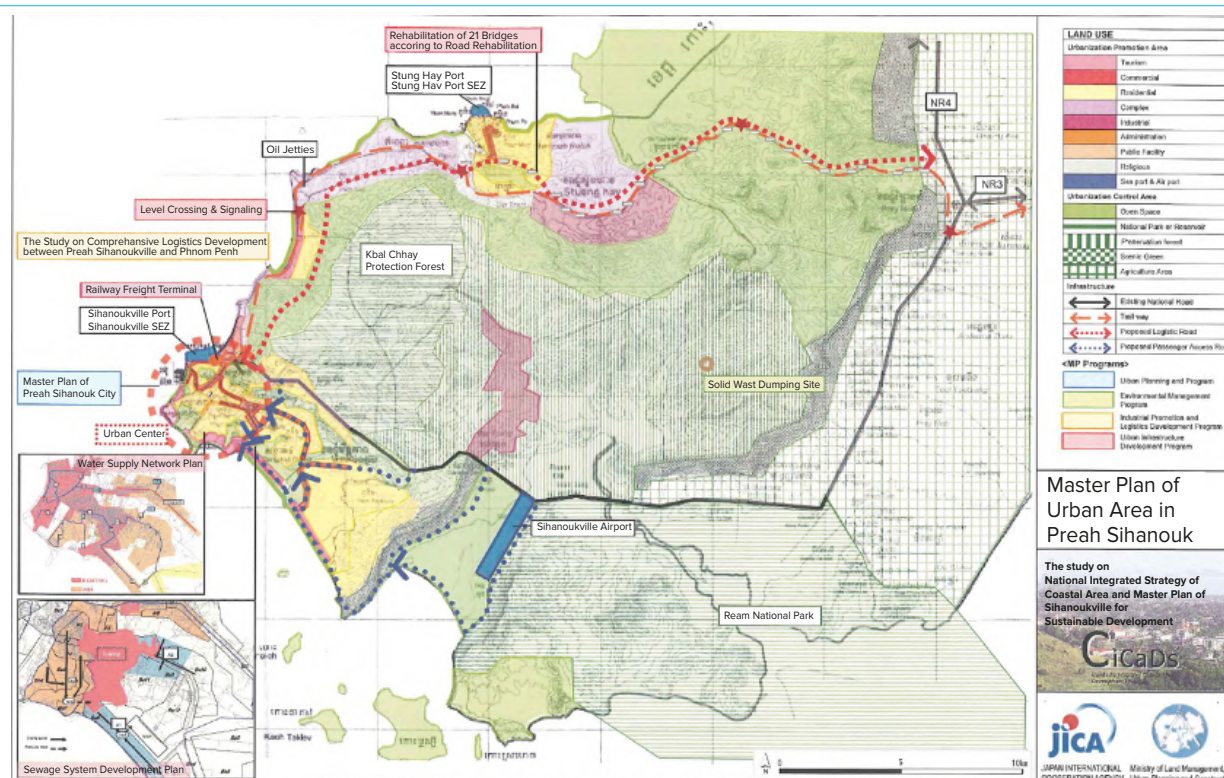


Figure 1. Master Plan of Urban Area in Preah Sihanouk (Source: JICA, 2010).

<sup>24</sup> [http://open\\_jicareport.jica.go.jp/pdf/12008819.pdf](http://open_jicareport.jica.go.jp/pdf/12008819.pdf)

<sup>25</sup> For convenience to the reader, a substantial part of the material presented in this section has been reproduced from (Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), 2010), Chapter 3 — [http://open\\_jicareport.jica.go.jp/pdf/12008827\\_02.pdf](http://open_jicareport.jica.go.jp/pdf/12008827_02.pdf)

The constraints to the successful achievement of the objectives for Sihanoukville, as identified in 2010 and validated in 2021, include:

- ▶ Basic infrastructure for water supply system;
- ▶ Expansion of the sewerage system, including treatment plant, and power supply system (both residential and industrial);
- ▶ Development of a functioning solid waste management system for residential, commercial and industrial users (including treatment of waste);

The constraints to the successful achievement of the objectives for Sihanoukville, as identified in 2010 and validated in 2021, include:

- ▶ Basic infrastructure for water supply system;
- ▶ Expansion of the sewerage system, including treatment plant, and power supply system (both residential and industrial);
- ▶ Development of a functioning solid waste management system for residential, commercial and industrial users (including treatment of waste);
- ▶ Enhancement of storm water system (including the need to take into account climate change);
- ▶ Planning for urban expansion and identification of appropriate zoning systems for commercial use, mixed use, industrial uses, services areas (e.g. sewerage treatment plant), road and rail systems, and environmental protection areas;
- ▶ Protection of Ochheuteal Beach, Otres Beach and the mangroves and forested areas.

The Sihanoukville Master Plan 2010 projected a population increase in Sihanoukville of 150,000 from 2008 to 2030. This would require new land use for residential areas of about 3,000 hectares, and commercial area of 500 hectares. In order to properly manage such urbanization process, a comprehensive land use plan should be urgently formulated, including a functional road network system.

The JICA Study Team made estimates of population growth and estimated needs for services to meet the needs of the city and surrounding industrial development. It recognised that the natural coastal and environmental values (both coastal and terrestrial) were fundamental to the development of Sihanoukville as a world class gateway to Asia. The recommendations for the protection of mangroves, forests, island and the beaches were very clear. The Sihanoukville Master Plan 2010 defined Coastal Land Area as an area between high tide level line and road or other land use zone with certain width of 50 to 70m. Coastal Land Area was to be retained as public property (public state land) and should be open for public use. Coastal Land Area should be designated in Land Use Master Plan to keep the area for public purpose and to assist with disaster risk reduction strategies.

The JICA Study Team did not make an extensive assessment of the future impact of climate change on Sihanoukville, although it was noted that forest and mangrove forest were very important to alleviate such disaster — see JICA report Figure 3.5.7 (reproduced as Figure 2 below). Since 2010, RGC has adopted a number of strategic responses to disaster risk reduction and climate change mitigation. In particular, development of large infrastructure project in the coastal zone should be avoided, reclaiming coastal land should be prohibited and the removal of mangroves and seagrasses should be prohibited.

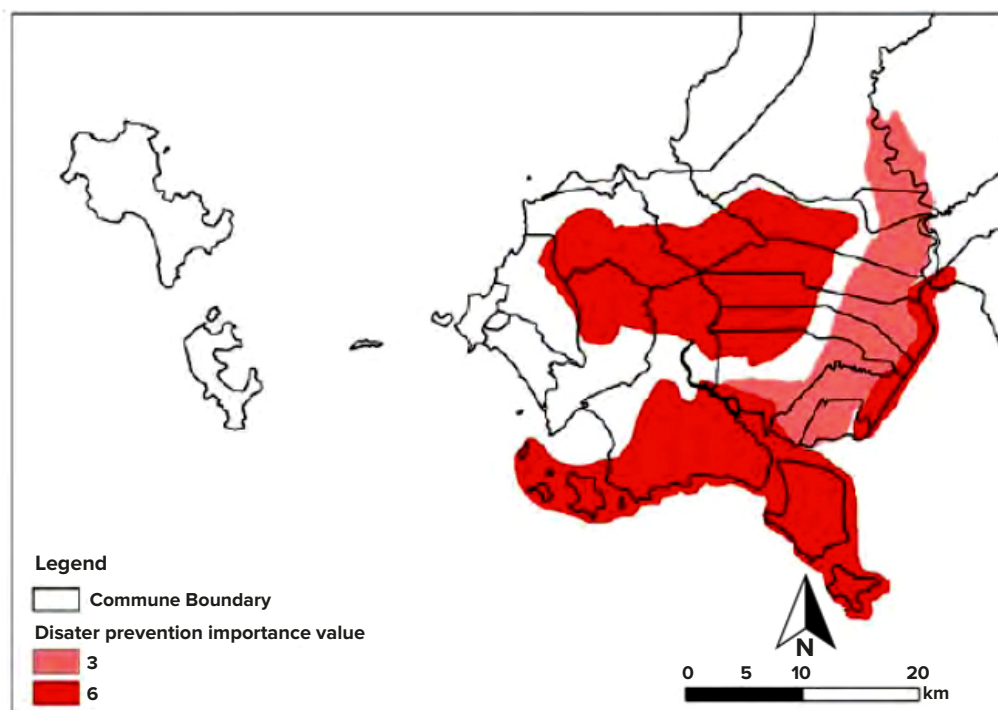


Figure 2. Importance of Land for Disaster Prevention (Source: JICA Study Team, 2010).

The important land uses are located as shown in JICA report Figure 3.5.2 (reproduced as Figure 3 below). Dense forest is located at the centre of the peninsula, southern part (Ream National Park) and islands. Mangrove forest is located along the coast, mainly southern part. Agriculture land is located at the east area from north to south between dense forest and mangrove forest.

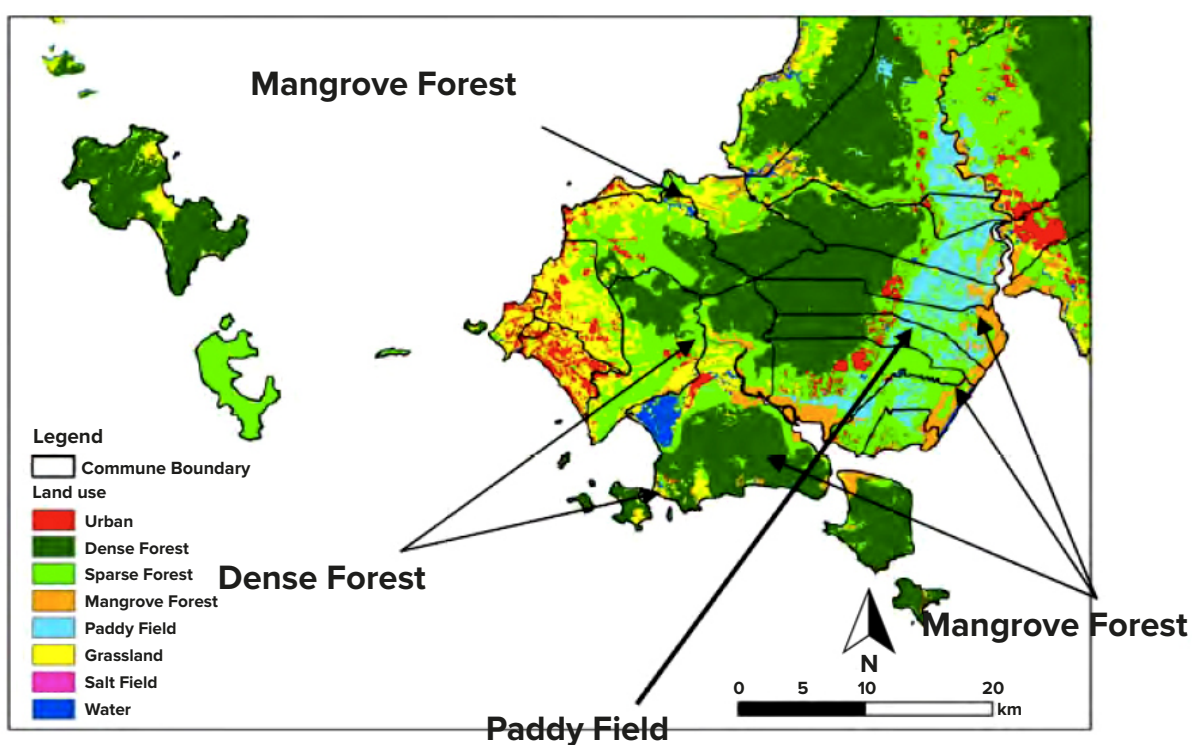


Figure 3. Location of Important Land Use (Source: JICA Study Team, 2010).



## Biodiversity mapping and assessment in 2010

The JICA Study Team evaluated the biodiversity and provided an assessment of significantly high (9), very high (6) and high (3), with abundance of species, diversity of habitats, and vulnerability and specificity of ecosystem, as shown in JICA report Figure 3.5.4 (reproduced as Figure 4 below).

Islands and Ream National Park are significantly important in terms of biodiversity as these areas include rich natural resources in particular threatened species. It was recommended that these areas must be protected from any large-scale development that makes serious negative impacts. The recommendations for conservation of areas of high value and above were set out in JICA report Figure 3.5.4 (reproduced as Figure 4 below) and JICA report Figure 3.5.8 (reproduced as Figure 5 below).

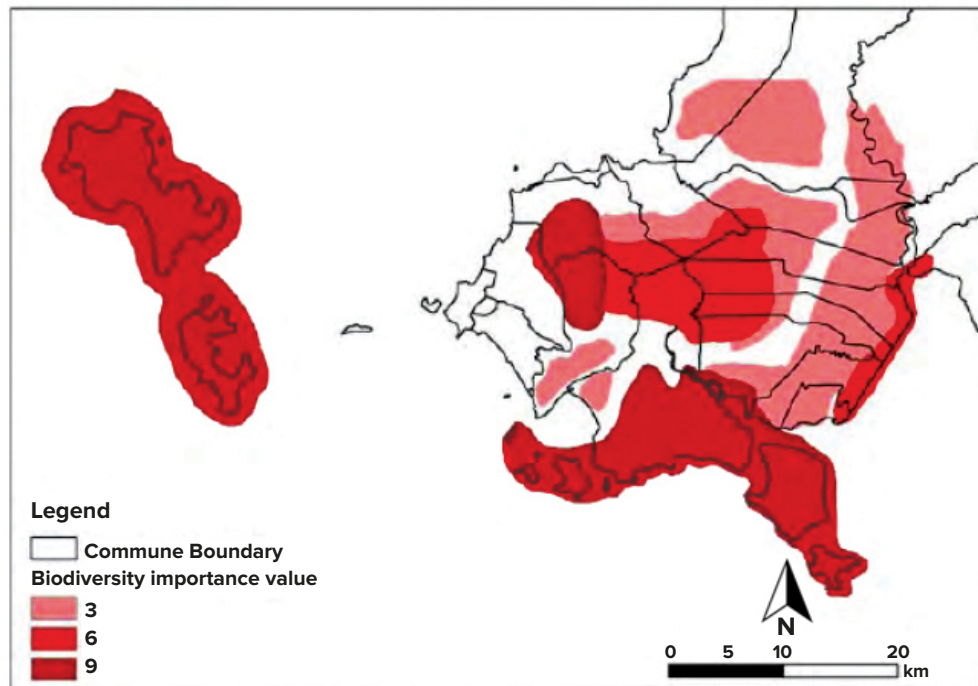


Figure 4. Importance of Land for Biodiversity (Source: JICA Study Team, 2010).

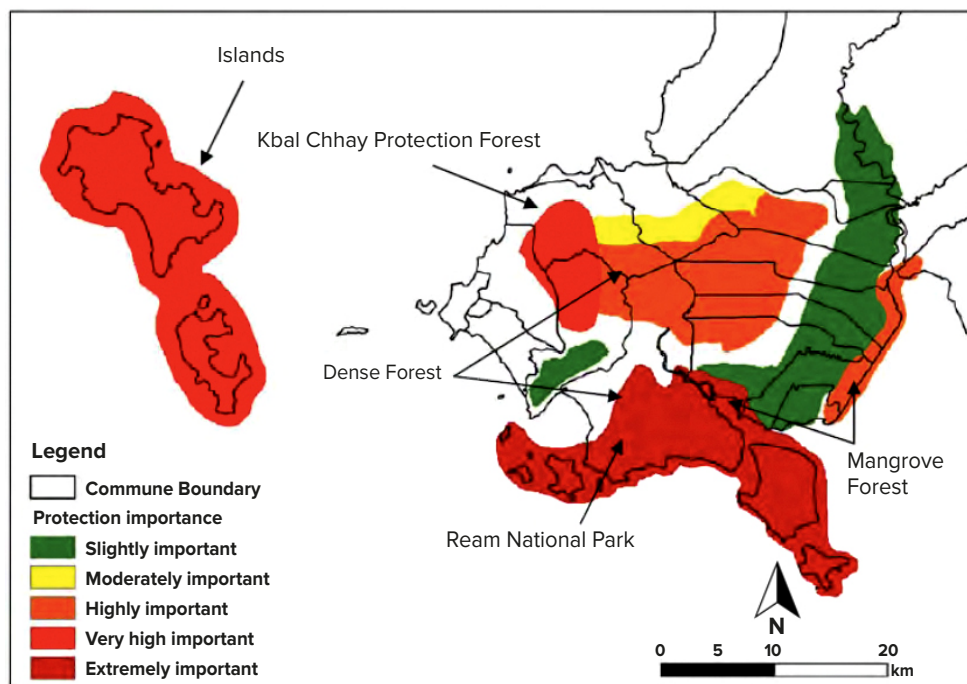


Figure 5. Overlaid Map for Environmental Security (Source: JICA Study Team, 2010).

## 2.5 Land and Resettlement Concerns in Cambodia

Land security lies at the heart of the human security framework as it has linkages to all three human security dimensions: land security should provide the ability to live free from fear that land will be taken, to be free from want (through livelihood, food and housing security and access to basic services such as education and health), and to be free from indignities (including from homelessness, inhumane displacement). Land insecurity in contrast has material, psychological and social dimensions – i.e. land loss and fear of land loss impact different dimensions of people's lives including lost income and physical and mental health problems and a lack of personal security.<sup>26</sup>

Land security is often narrowly understood as the possession of a land title (legal land tenure). However, a land title alone often does not provide people with the security they need to invest in their land and feel safe – people need to feel informed and empowered about their rights concerning land and the system needs to provide assurance that those rights will be respected and enforced. In many countries, reforms through new laws, land titles, and other judicial mechanisms regularly serve to further marginalise already land-insecure people by privileging those with material assets and political connections rather than reinforcing land security as a powerful driver of human security.<sup>27</sup>

The RGC has acknowledged the importance of land titling and resolving land disputes and has taken a number of steps to progress this, ranging from the promotion of land tenure security through the issuance of land titles and pledging to register all land by 2021.<sup>28</sup> According to the Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction, as of April 2019, around 5.2 million land parcels were registered nation-wide, accounting for 74% of the total 7 million land parcels.<sup>29</sup>

It has created a communal land title process for indigenous communities, social land concessions and set up numerous committees to resolve land disputes including (1) the national and provincial cadastral committees, (2) the National Authority for Land Conflict Resolution, (3) judicial dispute resolution mechanisms, and (4) extra-judicial dispute resolution mechanisms “on the basis of the existing legal principles without coercion, threat or intimidation to any party”.<sup>30</sup>

Nonetheless, insecurity over land is experienced in both rural and urban areas. In urban areas, this is often linked to evictions due to rapid urbanisation and a real estate boom, which has meant that speculative demand rose quickly and has distorted Cambodia's housing market.<sup>31</sup> In rural areas, causes for displacements include infrastructure development, factories and plantations, and special economic zones (“SEZs”) often granted as economic land concessions<sup>32</sup>, with over two million hectares of land granted. Formalised land tenure security and the access to loans this provides is potentially an important aspect of security. However, loans can also be a cause of insecurity when people become indebted and unable to pay back loans and then must sell their land or take out more loans to cover repayments. Cambodia has the highest level of microloan indebtedness in the world, with borrowers pressured into forced sales by microfinance institutions or local authorities when they cannot repay debts.<sup>33</sup>

A 2014 study on human security and land rights in Cambodia found that insecurity over land is also about wider issues of poverty, environment and livelihood insecurity. Land insecurity affected people's livelihoods and increased physical and psychological insecurity. The most vulnerable — poor families, less educated people, and female widows — were more likely to feel insecure about land. The largest causes of insecurity found were poverty, followed by land grabbing, corruption, lack of food, lack of land for the next generation, inadequate access to healthcare,

26 (Beban & Sovachana, 2014)

27 idem

28 (Pech, 2020)

29 (Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction, 2019)  
<https://opendevdevelopmentcambodia.net/announcements/press-release-on-a-land-dispute-resolution-mechanism-for-the-people/> 30 idem

30 idem

31 (World Bank Group, 2020)  
<https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/986491608013945613/pdf/Cambodia-Economic-Update-Restrained-Recovery-Special-Focus-Adapting-to-COVID-19-in-an-Uncertain-World.pdf>

32 (Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights, Cambodia, 2015)  
<https://cambodia.ohchr.org/en/economic-social-rights/economic-and-other-land-concessions>

33 idem

and forced and distress based land sales.<sup>34</sup> Although land title was an important source of security for many people, it did not provide full security: “Most people with a land title were still worried their land would be taken as they said they did not place trust in the judiciary nor in long-term government policy. Sometimes title increased insecurity if those with more power were able to grab more land during titling, or land values rose and predatory land purchases increased.”<sup>35</sup> While the RGC’s land documentation is an important step, it will only provide full tenure security if the dispute resolution mechanism is perceived to be accessible and fair.

A 2020 analysis of resettlement, including relocations that were not carried out in accordance with the law and resulted in forced evictions, across various locations in Cambodia including Sihanoukville by the OHCHR in Cambodia highlighted concerning patterns of practice. These included relocations carried out without proper consultations with affected communities prior to the eviction, the use of intimidation and coercion of households to force them to relocate and improper use of force during the process of eviction, lack of preparation of resettlement sites in advance of evictions with no services available when households arrived. Many resettlements left households economically worse off, thus exacerbating economic insecurities with households reporting increased debt, irregular incomes, a decrease in sufficiency of income as compared to their previous locations. These findings re-emphasise the interlinked nature of insecurities that can arise from land insecurity and forced evictions – personal, economic, health and food insecurities. Forced evictions are inevitably traumatic: they cause injury; they affect the most vulnerable; they place people at risk of further violence; they often cause people to lose their sources of livelihood; and they particularly affect women evictees who often suffer disproportionately from violence before, during and after a forced eviction. Interestingly, the study found that the types of information that can tip communities from considering relocations as voluntary versus involuntary were very modest, and yet during the survey no respondents stated that they or their household members had participated in consultation meetings.

These practices appear to be in contravention of Cambodia’s national laws and policies, and the right

to housing that is guaranteed by international human rights law and which has been incorporated as a fundamental human right of the Cambodian people under Article 31 of the Constitution. Cambodian national laws not only recognise the right to adequate housing, but also provide protections for this right under the 2001 Land Law that recognises the right to own immovable property. It establishes that land/property expropriation can only occur in the public interest, and fair and just compensation must be paid in advance. The 2010 Law on Expropriation reiterates the principle of payment of adequate and fair compensation to be given in advance, at market price or replacement price, to owners/possessors. The May 2010 Circular on Resolution on Temporary Settlements on Land (also known as Circular No. 03) was issued to deal with disputes related to relocations of communities in urban areas. It offered solutions to support development of urban poor settlements that were considered illegal, and while it established minimum standards for resettlement sites, it did not include adequate legal safeguards for relocation. In May 2014 the RCG issued the National Housing Policy, which explicitly recognised the right to adequate housing. The Policy creates a Strategy and Action Plan, notes that relocations should always be a last resort and encourages the participation of local communities. The 2017 Policy on Incentive and Establishment of National Program for Development of Affordable Housing in the first stage focuses on fiscal incentives, such as tax breaks, to encourage investment in low-cost housing, while the second stage creates a national program for the development of affordable housing, to work in conjunction with the social security system.

In February 2018, the Ministry of Economy and Finance issued a Sub Decree on the Promulgation of the Standard Operating Procedures for Land Acquisition and Involuntary Resettlement for Externally Financed Projects in Cambodia that sets out detailed procedures to be followed when infrastructure projects funded by external donors (such as the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and others) but does not apply to resettlements caused by local development projects or otherwise, thus potentially setting up a two-tiered system of protections. To fill this gap, in 2021, the OHCHR Cambodia office developed draft Resettlement Guidelines that go beyond the 2018 Sub-Decree as they are intended to apply to all relocations

34 (Beban & Sovachana, 2014)

35 idem

and resettlements in Cambodia whether caused by development projects, such as concessions and public contracts, and/or natural disasters, regardless of the source of funding, and also including the slow and sudden onset effects of climate change.

Given the recent issuance of a sub-decree in June 2021 to upgrade Preah Sihanouk province to a multi purpose special economic zone (SEZ) and expansion of the deep seaport<sup>36</sup>, the Phnom Penh Sihanoukville Expressway<sup>37</sup>, and the expected resumption of urban development of Sihanoukville in the post-Covid-19 recovery period, further displacement and resettlement in both surrounding rural and urban areas can be anticipated. Under the Cambodian legal framework, the essential pre conditions to granting land concessions are public consultations together with environmental and social impact assessments (ESIAs), accompanied by the safeguards on the resettlement process, including compensation as noted above.

There is a long history of land disputes in Cambodia, due to: allocation, sale, and use of land that operates far more on a patronage system that sustains structural inequalities rather than according to the law, forced evictions, a lack of proper standards on resettlement, and lengthy, complex, opaque and prohibitively expensive land titling processes, with the human cost often falling on the most vulnerable people. The forthcoming developments could reinforce those patterns or could break the vicious cycle if these important processes already set out in Cambodian law are followed, complemented by applying the OHCHR Resettlement Guidelines. The RCG has committed to international partners to implement land management and resettlement processes in line with its international obligations; the forthcoming changes in Sihanoukville provide an opportunity to demonstrate that commitment.<sup>38</sup>

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36 (Hin, 2021)  
<https://phnompenhpost.com/business/sihanouk-province-become-multi-purpose-sez>

37 (Thou, 2021)  
<https://phnompenhpost.com/business/phnom-penh-sihanoukville-expressway-51-complete>

38 Cambodia recently completed its third cycle of peer reviews through the Universal Periodic Review Process in the UN Human Rights Council. It accepted a range of recommendations on reinforcing land management, concessioning and resettlement recommendations in line with its human rights obligations (Human Rights Council, 2019). [https://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage\\_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/41/17/Add.1](https://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/41/17/Add.1)

# 3 Findings of Sihanoukville Human Security Assessment — Factors, Interlinkages and Root Causes

## 3.1 Economic Security

Figure 7 page 30 presents a synthesis of factors, interlinkages and root causes derived from consultation data and pertaining to Economic Security — in the form of a cause-to-effect diagram, also commonly referred to as “fishbone diagram”. Four kinds of factors are distinguished between:

- ▶ Developmental factors — which directly result from the current developmental model and manifest its repercussions on the everyday life of Sihanoukville residents;
- ▶ Structural factors — which are inherent to the structure of the administration, of the judicial system, of the economy, etc. and have repercussions on the economic security of Sihanoukville residents;
- ▶ Contingency factors — which result from unforeseen causes and transiently affect human security, the dominant contingency factor at the time of publication of this report being the covid19 pandemic;
- ▶ Social factors — which are inherent to the organisation of the society, its culture and traditions and thereby influence the economic security of households.

Developmental factors the most frequently evoked by survey participants comprise:

- ▶ **Uncontrolled inflation of rental for office/home premises** — which appears to be primarily caused by a dominating practice of unrealistic property valuations → which results from unrealistic real estate market prospects by investors → which themselves are linked with the rise of profit-driven investment capital & which finds its root cause in the current context of rapid urbanisation associated with policies conducive to investment in general and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in particular.
- ▶ **Uncontrolled inflation of food prices** — which result from a disruption of the food market equilibrium & which itself is caused by the following combination of factors:

- o increase in population and hence food demand → which itself is linked with rapid urbanisation;
- o influx of population with higher spending power; and
- o insufficient increase in food supply to match the increase in demand → which itself finds its root cause in rapid urbanisation and conversion of agricultural to urban land.

- ▶ **Heightened employment volatility** — which was attributed in part to non-compliance in human resource management practices → which is linked with the following combination of factors:

- o non-compliant human resource management practices in foreign-owned SMEs → which itself result from a cultural gap affecting management practices;
- o proliferation of foreign-owned SMEs;
- o lack of adequate control of human resource management practices; and
- o lack of adequate grievance mechanisms.

- ▶ **Loss of major assets** — which is linked with abuses over land rights → which results from unrealistic real estate market prospects by investors à which themselves are linked with the rise of profit-driven investment capital → which is emphasized in a context of rapid urbanisation.

- ▶ **Adverse business conditions for small/micro businesses** — which was attributed to the following combination of factors:

- o transient difficulties with adjusting to new business management rules by the municipality;
- o unfair competition from foreign workers owning and operating micro-businesses informally → which results from an influx of foreign population in the context of inadequate regulation/controls on business activities of migrant workers → which is emphasized in the current context of rapid urbanisation.



Figure 6 presents a view of the comprehensive cause-to-effect diagram presented in Figure 7 that is focused on developmental factors only.

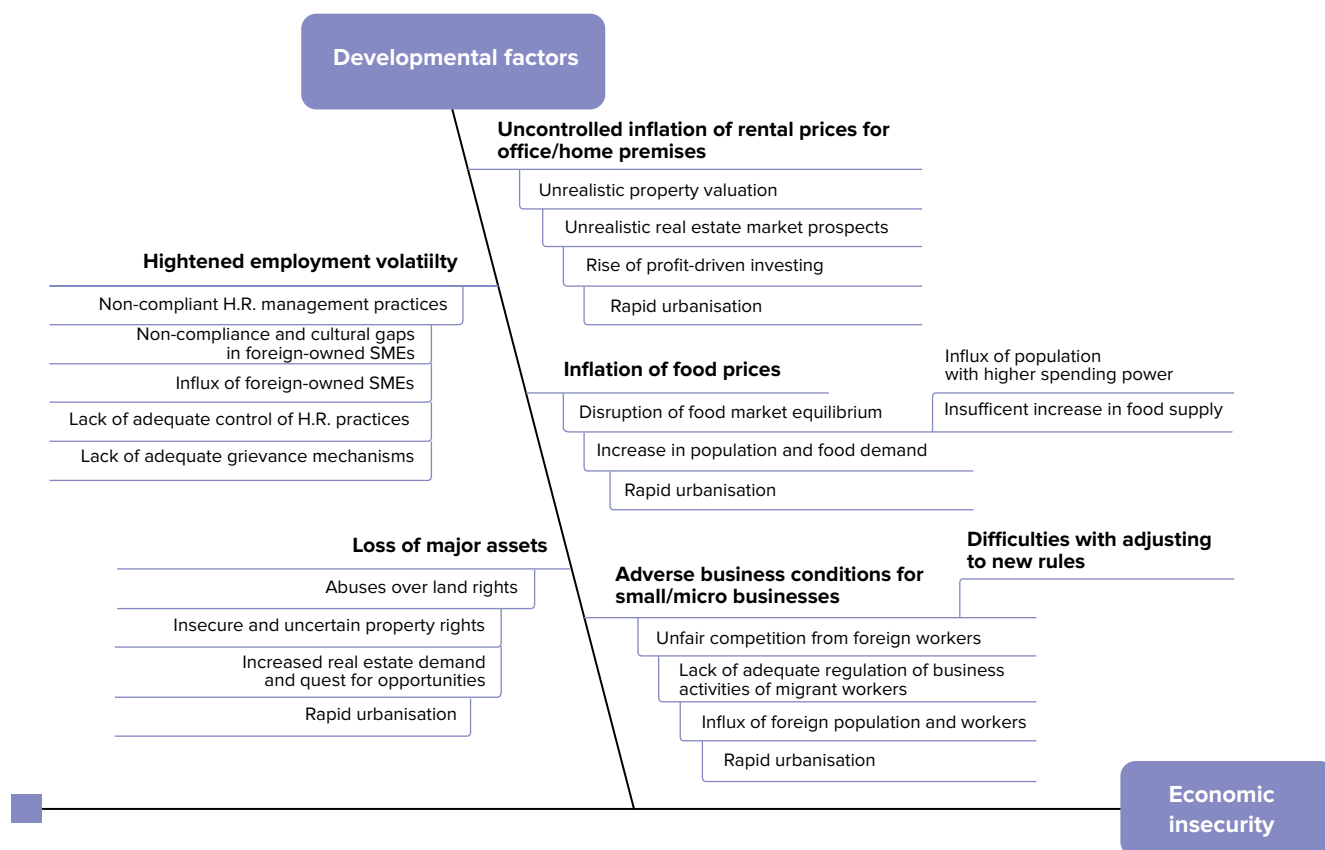


Figure 6. Developmental Factors Contributing to Economic Insecurity.

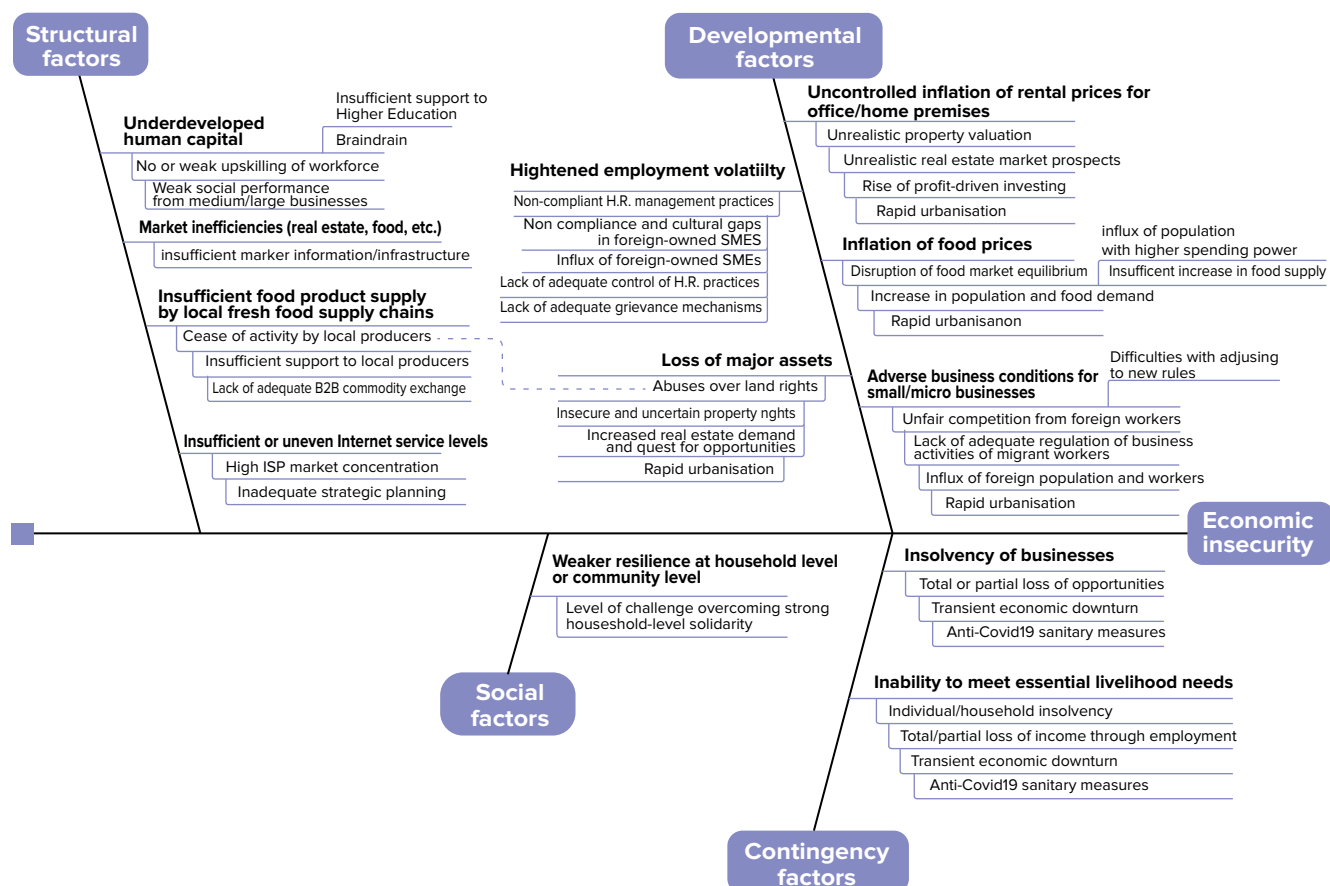


Figure 7. Cause-to-Effect Diagram, Economic Security.



Elaborations by survey participants also revealed a range of factors of structural nature. Those include:

- ▶ **Situation of underdeveloped human capital** — which was said to result from the following combination of factors:
  - o no or weak upskilling of the workforce in SMEs and large firms → itself linked with a weakness of responsible business practices;
  - o insufficient support to local Higher Education Institutions (HEIs);
  - o migration of skilled workers to Phnom Penh Capital City or other destinations offering more attractive career opportunities.
- ▶ **Insufficiency of local food production and supply chains** — which is structurally linked with a shift of activity from farmers toward different activity sectors → which was explained by insufficient support to local producers & which in part may result from the lack of an adequate B2B food commodity exchange.

**Note:** This is also linked to abuses over land rights (see developmental factors) that prompted farmers to shift away from agriculture.

- ▶ **Market inefficiencies (real estate, food, etc.)** — which was attributed in part to insufficient market information and/or infrastructure.
- ▶ **Insufficient or uneven Internet service levels** — which seems to be linked with a situation of high Internet Service Provider (ISP) market concentration → which may be caused by inadequate strategic planning and coordination between ISPs on the one hand and Provincial authorities on the other hand.

Sihanoukville residents consulted in this study also highlighted the impacts of contingency factors, singling out the covid19 pandemic as the main root cause:

- ▶ **Insolvency of businesses** — which results from a total or partial loss of business opportunities & which is a direct consequence of the recent economic downturn → which is caused by the covid19 pandemic.
- ▶ **Inability to meet essential livelihood needs** — which directly results from a situation of insolvency at an individual/household level & which itself is caused by a total or partial loss of income through employment → which itself a direct consequence of the recent economic downturn → which is caused by the covid19 pandemic.

Survey participants confirmed the existence of solidarity mechanisms at the household level serving

as a safeguard, albeit not always sufficient in particularly difficult times such as the present economic downturn due to the covid19 pandemic.

## 3.2 Food Security

The cause-to-effect diagram in Figure 8 highlights three main types of factors contributing to food insecurity: phytosanitary and food safety; affordability; and market structure.

The survey revealed concerns over phytosanitary and food safety. Survey participants mentioned issues such as traces of undue chemicals used in fertilisers and pesticides in the food chain, or traces of undue chemicals in 20L drinkable water bottles; which they attributed to insufficient controls or enforcement.

Food affordability appears to be linked with the following factors and causes<sup>39</sup>

- ▶ **Inflation of food prices** — which is caused by the inability of the market to match the growth of demand by a growth of supply → a factor contributing to such market disequilibrium being the influx of foreign population with higher spending power.
- ▶ **Fewer options for direct access to natural resources e.g. fishing from ponds and waterways, digging wells, building irrigation canals, growing household vegetables and picking plants** & explained by a difficulty for residents to shift from traditions established over centuries to new rules → which is directly linked with rapid urbanisation.
- ▶ **Diminution of household income** — See also elaborations in Section 3.1 Economic Security.

Market structure, which was identified as a factor influencing food security, is linked with the following factors and causes<sup>40</sup>:

- ▶ **Insufficient increase in food supply from local production** — which partly results from farmers switching activity and selling their lands to companies → which is directly linked with rapid urbanisation.
- ▶ **Higher sensitivity to contingency factors e.g. increases in freight and logistic prices recently aggravated due to the covid19 pandemic** — which is caused by a higher dependency on imports → which is in part attributable to an insufficient promotion of local producers by Provincial Authorities.

<sup>39</sup> See also elaborations in Section 3.1 Economic Security

<sup>40</sup> ditto

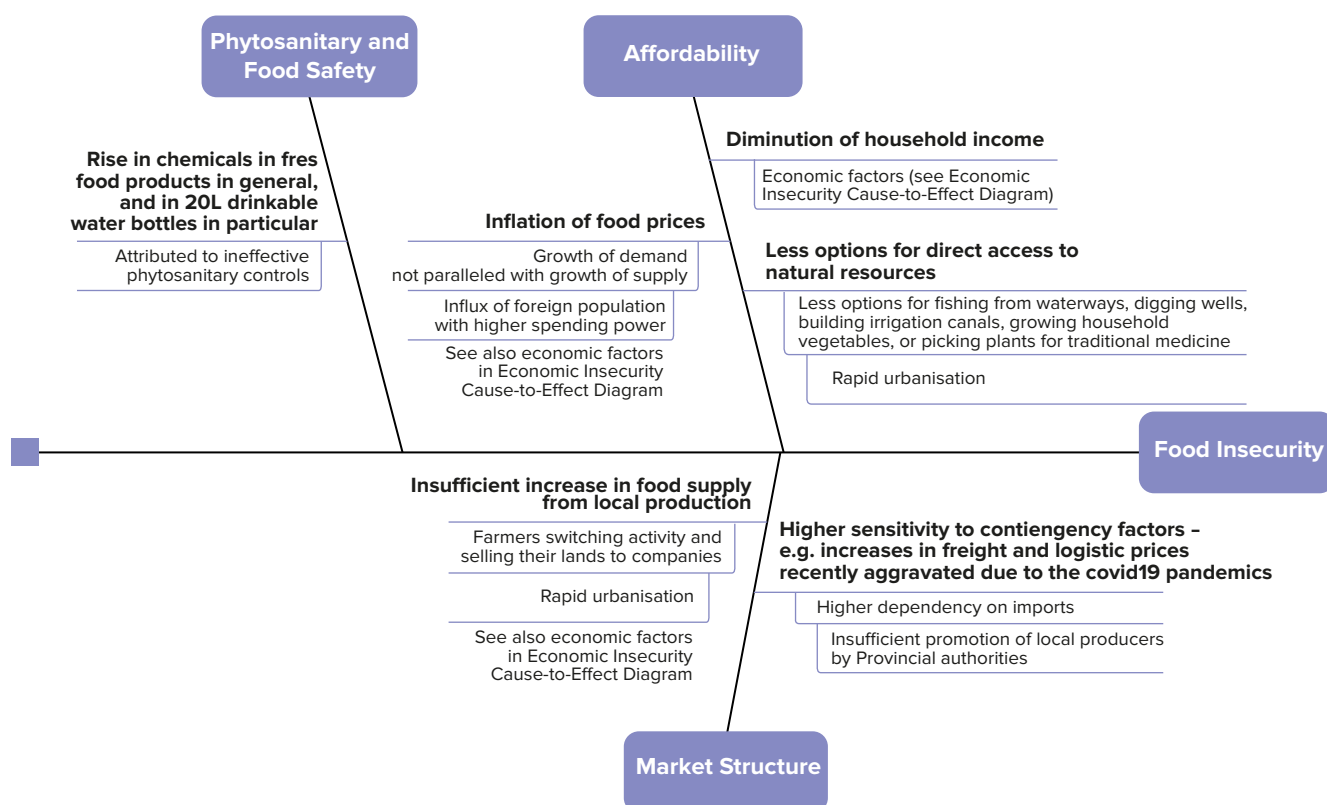


Figure 8. Cause-to-Effect Diagram, Food Security.

### 3.3 Health Security

The prominent factors emanating from consultations essentially revolved around healthcare service delivery. Protective factors identified by interviewees and related to healthcare service delivery include:

- **Improvement in health sector capacity** — which itself results from a combination of improvements:
  - o Improvements in manpower, in terms of both number and skill level;
  - o Improvements in staff attitude, which survey participants attributed to a generational factor;
  - o Improvements in medical equipment, which Sihanoukville residents have observed in both public and private healthcare institutions.

- **Enhanced access to public healthcare services for vulnerable households** → which is the positive impact and outcome of the national IDPoor Program.

**Note:** A caveat was pointed out by a CSO, that is the administrative burden faced by families while applying for an IDPoor card.

The following adverse factors were pointed out by survey participants:

- **While the range of healthcare services available locally has been broadening, many medical conditions require Sihanoukville residents to**

**travel to Phnom Penh Capital City** — which hints to somewhat inadequate or obsolete strategic planning in the context of rapid urbanisation.

- **Unequal service levels affecting IDPoor cardholders** — Among concerning situations of insecurity is the discrimination faced by residents while accessing public health institutions with IDPoor cards, who incur rudeness from the staff, indignity, longer waiting times, and lower levels of service. Cases were reported where patients were asked to pay extra money to access health services which defeats the very purpose of the IDPoor card and program. Consequently, some IDPoor cardholders resorted to taking loans from Micro-Finance Institutions to finance the needed health services. Survey participants attributed that situation to inadequate financial settings in public health care institutions, double with inadequate governance systems and controls.
- **Unequal service levels affecting prisoners** — The executive director of a CSO supplying care services to vulnerable children and families pointed out that prisoners benefit from healthcare service levels by the public system that are significantly lower, if not the lowest. That situation seems to be resulting from a polarisation of current strategic plans toward different priorities.

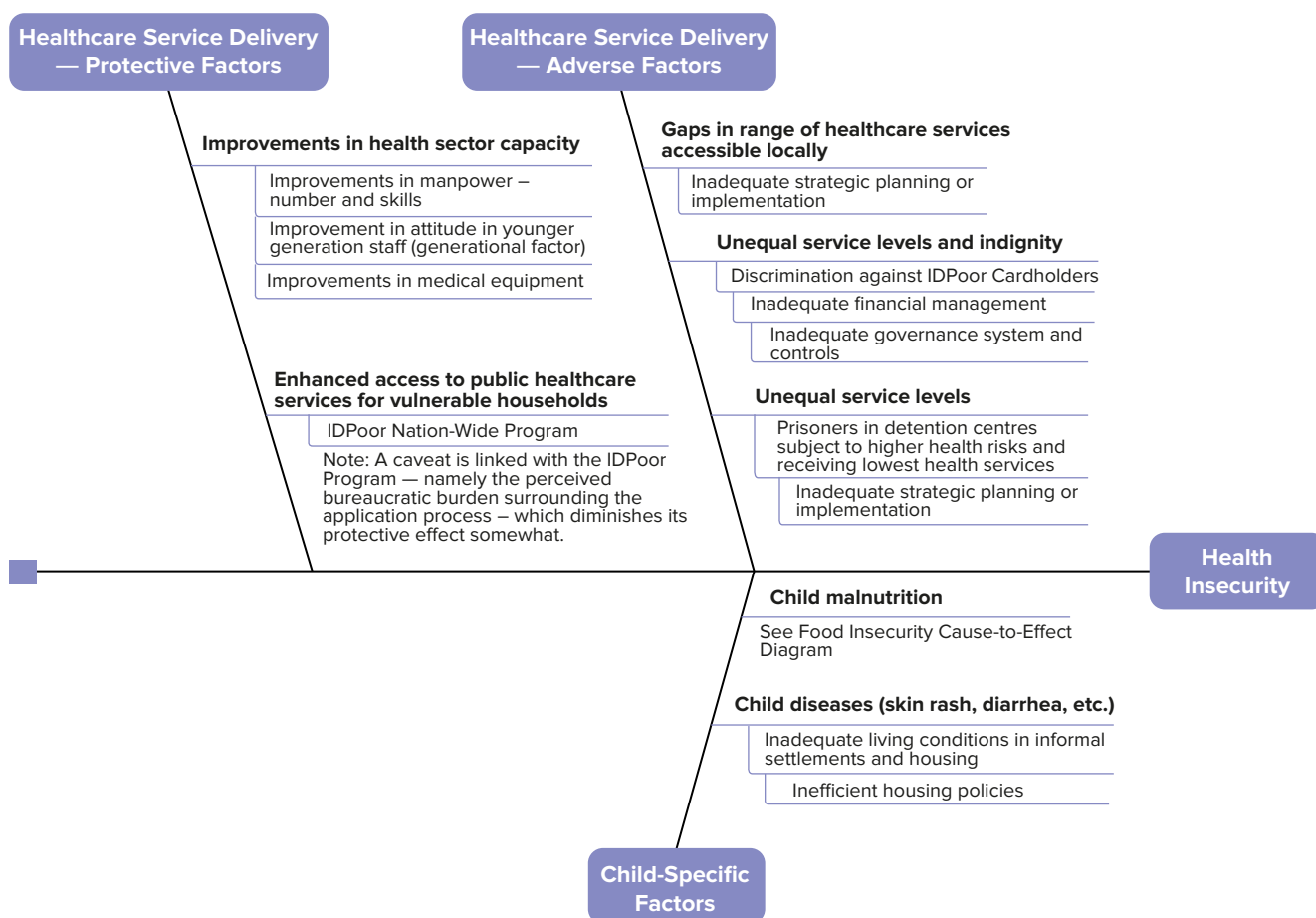


Figure 9. Cause-to-Effect Diagram, Health Security.

### 3.4 Environmental Security

Survey participants pointed out a range of factors affecting their sense of environmental security, essentially revolving around urban management factors and ecosystem disruption factors – see Figure 10. Key messages are synthesized as follows:

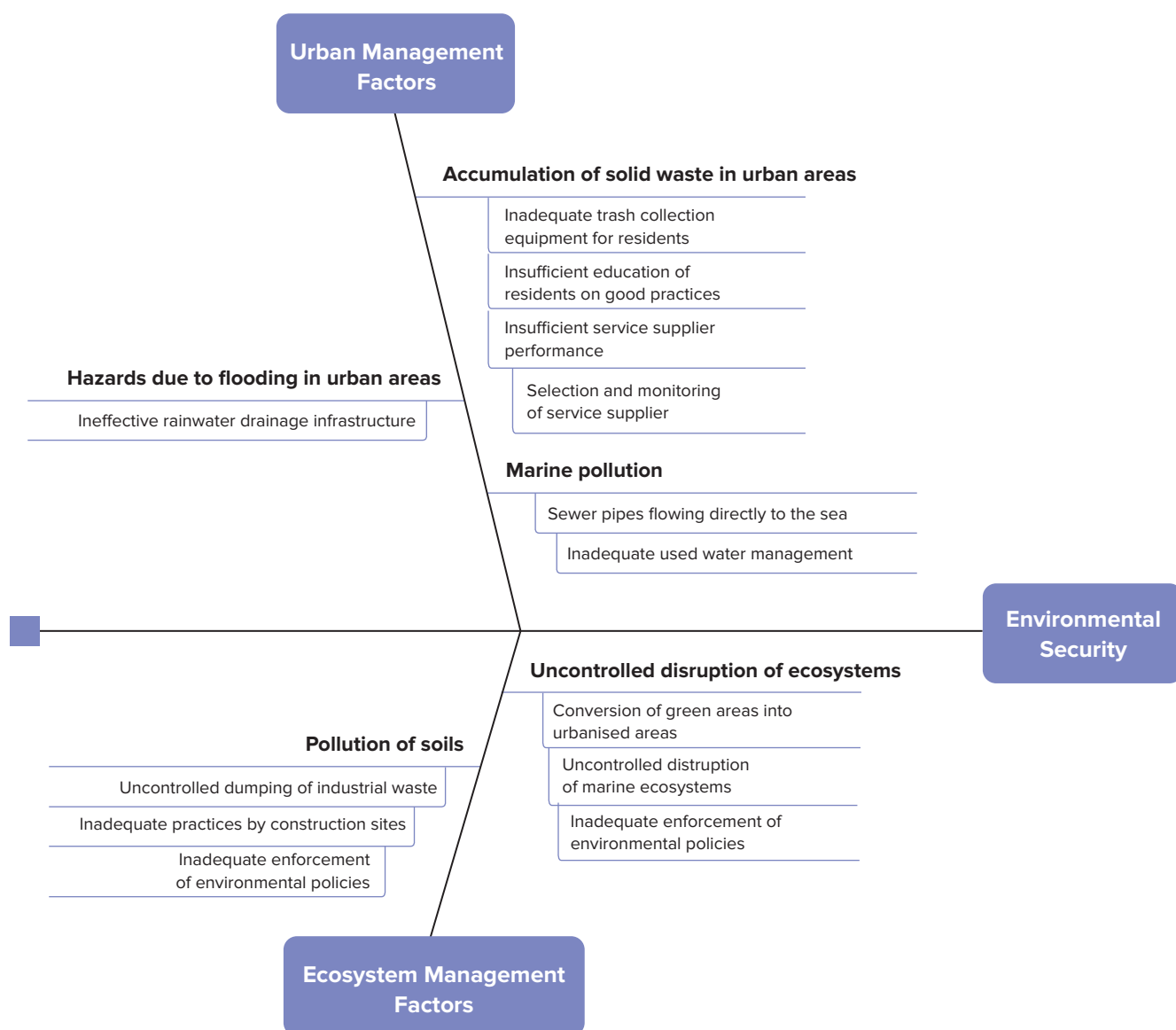
- **Accumulation of solid waste in urban areas is a prominent factor affecting the everyday reality of a great number of Sihanoukville residents, especially around marketplaces and along narrow streets** — which itself is linked with the following factors:

- o Households lacking adequate equipment i.e. trash bins;
- o Residents lacking adequate education on solid waste management;
- o Performance of current trash collection service supplier judged satisfactory along main roads but insufficient around marketplaces and along narrower streets → itself attributed to inadequate selection and performance monitoring of service supplier by municipal authorities.

- **Hazards<sup>41,42</sup> due to flooding in urban areas** → which directly results from an ineffective drainage infrastructure.
- **Marine pollution** was noted by several survey participants → linked with the existence of unregulated sewer pipes flowing directly to the sea → attributed to an inadequate infrastructure of used waters doubled with ineffective enforcement of environmental policies.
- **Pollution of soils** resulting from uncontrolled dumping of industrial waste → inadequate practices by construction sites being pointed out as a major contributor → themselves made possible because of ineffective enforcement of environmental policies.
- **Uncontrolled disruptions of ecosystems resulting from rapid urbanisation** → resulting from a combination of factors:
  - o Conversion of green areas into urbanised areas;
  - o Uncontrolled disruption of marine ecosystems → linked with an ineffective marine ecosystem strategy.

41 Residents report frequent flooding episodes causing the level of water elevating above 1.00 meter in their house's ground floor (up to 1.5 meters in some cases).

42 A CSO representative mentioned cases of children drowning in the river or in the drain of some nearby construction site.



### 3.5 Personal Security

Reports by survey participants essentially revolved around four different kinds of factors:

- Exposure to gangsterism and other crimes.
- Exposure to retaliation intimidation.
- Exposure to modern forms of prostitution affecting young adults.
- Exposure to child labour and other forms of personal insecurity affecting children.

#### Exposure to gangsterism and other crimes:

- **Commuting around the city was said to become increasingly unsafe, due to the risk of being robbed or caught accidentally in armed violence** — armed violence which survey participants linked with drug trafficking and attributed primarily to gangsterism of Chinese origin & itself

resulting from uncontrolled side-effects of rapid urbanisation.

- **Risk of rape and sexual violence** — Based on the representative of a human rights CSO cases of rape in Sihanoukville have been increasing over the past few years. They noted a linkage with the general context of the rise of violence in Sihanoukville and, as a corollary, a linkage with the covid19 period causing more people to be idle and thereby becoming more exposed to that risk. They also pointed out the wider adoption of the Internet, smartphones and online social media as potential causes, firstly due to the easier access to pornographic material including scenes of sexual violence, secondly due to the risk incurred by easily influenceable users while venturing into the potentially unsafe arena of online social media.

► **Exposure to domestic violence** — While domestic violence was already an issue in the recent past, it was said to have increased as the result of travel restrictions linked with the covid19 pandemic and promiscuous living conditions in many households. → The perpetuation of domestic violence appears to be linked with a variety of factors, one of which being the ineffective intervention of law enforcement authorities or the lack of suitable safeguard mechanisms.<sup>43</sup>

**Exposure to retaliation or intimidation**<sup>44</sup> — Based on accounts by survey participants, causes include land rights-related disputes, conflicts with higher-ranking people, or conflicts between activists and local authorities<sup>45</sup>. A representative of a local CSO noted a direct linkage between the trends of urbanisation on the one hand and land-related disputes on the other hand which, in the past few years, have both been increasing. & That category of effects hints to the lack of adequate grievance mechanisms.

**Exposure to modern forms of prostitution affecting young adults** — A social worker from a CSO bringing assistance to vulnerable families explained that young adults can be attracted by casinos, karaoke venues, massage parlours and similar businesses by regarding those as an opportunity to change or upgrade their lifestyle; often leading to modern forms of prostitution. That risk was said to have been increasing over the past few years and directly linked with the proliferation of casinos, karaoke venues and similar entertainment venues.

**Exposure to child labour and other forms of personal insecurity affecting children** — Children appear to be subject to a variety of risks threatening their security. Already noted in the section on environmental security are cases of ultimate insecurity on a personal level, namely reports of children drowning in the river or the drain of some nearby construction site. In addition, it is a common practice for construction workers to take their children to the building site with them. Whether on building sites or in other environments, child labour is still a concerning reality; leading to malnutrition, loss of attention at school, as well as potential exposure to violence and drugs.

Another important linkage that was pointed out by a CSO bringing care to children is that forced child labour sometimes finds its cause in the parents' gambling addiction.

## 3.6 Community Security

Among the top concerns affecting survey participants and their respective communities are the exposure to drug trafficking and related crimes, exposure to robberies, and lack of road safety. Factors are summarised below.

**Drug trafficking and related crimes at a community level** — Multiple survey participants noted an increase in the crime level in their community, giving rise to robberies and shootings even at daytime. Academics and students interviewed in this study also confirmed a similar trend on university campuses; even on school compounds or nearby areas, thereby putting teenagers directly at risk. Overall, access to illegal drugs has become easier and more affordable. → According to residents, an explanatory factor is an increase in demand correlated with the influx of a population of Chinese origin. That is corroborated by taxi drivers, who observed that most of the areas with a high concentration of Chinese population are subject to drug trafficking issues. & Several survey participants including a CSO representative pointed out another linkage, i.e. networks for organised trafficking and crime have expanded and become better organised to the point of inducing collusion with law enforcement authorities.

Note: On a positive side, survey participants also pointed out the effective action of the current Governor, which has resulted in improving security and reducing drug trafficking in several villages.

**Road safety** — Residents recognise that road safety has improved in some areas, due to the development of adequate road infrastructure, the installation of traffic lights and stringent enforcement of rules. Nonetheless, multiple survey participants identified road traffic as a major factor of insecurity at a community level causing both casualties and fatalities. The level of insecurity has remained stable or worsened in the recent past. That trend is attributed to various factors such as the lack of road signs, lack of discipline of drivers or lack of education of drivers. Another factor mentioned by survey participants is that cases of irresponsible driving are more frequent with foreigners.

**Community-level risks affecting children** — A representative of a human rights CSO reported cases

43 One of the survey participants, who is a mother of three children and the victim of physical and psychological abuse by her husband, confided that her freedom is seriously compromised; alerting the chief of the community not being an option because the latter is her husband's sibling, alerting other people being difficult after the husband confiscated her phone, and the intervention of law enforcement authorities proving ineffective thus far.

44 Multiple survey participants reported having been subject to intimidation in various forms including threats through weapons, phone calls and stalking.

45 as was the case of an activist using social media for diffusing a video and a testimonial to raise awareness on issues affecting a specific professional body



of violence and abuse (rape) against children due to typical patterns of family organisation. → Children kept under the purview of their grandparents while both parents are working in a factory during the day receive less care and attention, and therefore are more exposed to potential risks.

**Uneven coverage of urban services** — A survey participant explained that neither the national electricity grid nor the local water distribution network covers the area where his community resides.

**Gambling** — Several residents reported problematic gambling behaviours in their community (not related to casinos).

### 3.7 Trust in Institutions

**Rise of land-related disputes** — The top concern raised by survey participants is the rise of land related disputes, the fear of entailing intimidation or retaliation, and the experience of judicial decisions perceived as unfair. Therefrom they derive a sense of insecurity that has been worsening over the past few years, or stationary at an unsatisfactory level. That situation was attributed to the following factors:

- Lack of knowledge regarding obligations/provisions/rights set forth by the legal and regulatory framework;
- Abuses exploiting this lack of knowledge;
- Collusion between the supposed owners and the judicial system;

- Fear of intimidation actions leading abused residents to give up their rights or disregard grievance procedures as an option.

**Lack of adequate grievance mechanisms** — Aside from judicial decisions per se, several residents confided being treated with little dignity and respect while interacting with the administration or public sector services (a sociological science concept known as lack of “interactional justice”). That includes cases of a female street seller treated harshly by the local police, a taxi driver deprived of his vehicle by the police for two days, holders of an IDPoor card discriminated against (see Section 3.3), and a family informed by the police of the death of a relative with unreasonable delay (a sociological science concept known as lack of “informational justice”). → All such examples hint to the lack of adequate grievance mechanisms.

**Other factors** — A social worker of a CSO caring for vulnerable families warned about another factor eroding the trust in the judicial system and causing potential insecurity for the residents, that is the earlier release of some prisoners. Moreover, several residents confided that they fear expressing their thoughts freely in public; without linking that fear to any specific factor or cause.

On the positive side, some residents expressed a positive outlook and confidence in the effective leadership of the current Governor. Another survey participant attributed his optimism to the broadening adoption of online social media, enabling residents to diffuse evidence of unfair treatment or grievance to the public as a preventive measure.

# 4 Preventive, Protective and Empowering Measures as per Communities' Suggestions

## 4.1 Proposals for Mitigating Root Causes and Factors Upstream — Preventive Measures

Among factors placed upstream in causation chains and having repercussions cutting across several dimensions of human insecurity, land rights management and related issues was unanimously identified by Sihanoukville residents as the most influential. See elaboration in Section 3.1 explicating repercussions onto structural factors, developmental factors, economic security, food security, health security, personal security, community security and trust in institutions. Suggestions by survey participants are synthesised below.

- **Bridging the known situation of information asymmetry by empowering Sihanoukville residents from all backgrounds with a better awareness of existing land rights-related laws, regulations, judicial mechanisms, and grievance and redress mechanisms** — Survey participants from backgrounds as varied as Academia, community leader, farmer or CSO executive insisted on the need and the demand for that kind of education, especially coming from the most modest and vulnerable profiles of Sihanoukville residents. Some residents consider that an education programme of that kind should be supported by provincial authorities and find its place naturally in a developmental initiative purposed to turn Sihanoukville into a smart city. Others envision support coming from the civil society itself, i.e. CSOs. All interviewees agree that such a measure, if implemented effectively, would help prevent or resolve many of the land rights-related disputes.

**Note:** Strengthening grievance and redress mechanisms are considered protective measures, and therefore addressed in Section 4.2.

- **Bridging the known situation of information asymmetry by enabling easier access to cadastral and construction permitting information** — Survey participants recognised

that many land rights-related issues originate from an asymmetry of cadastral information, either between the residents involved in the dispute, or between a resident and the administration. Residents expressed that they will welcome every solution helping reduce such asymmetry. That level of expectation warrants the urge to consider harnessing ICT for empowering the land management administration with more effective tools and residents with easier access to cadastral maps<sup>46</sup>. A similar suggestion applies to the ability for residents to access the non confidential part of construction permitting information and decisions. Further elaborations on potential e-Governance solutions, related case studies and international good practices are provided in Chapter 5.

- **Enhancing communication between residents and local authorities by means of modern digital and e-Governance tools** — The survey revealed a strong demand for solutions that would help bridge communication gaps between residents and the administration. The local representative of a human rights CSO envisions a smart Sihanoukville where a custom-built mobile application will connect every Provincial Department with residents and foster bilateral interaction. In particular, that mobile application would allow every resident to liaise with the Department of Land Management, Urban Planning, Construction and Cadastre of Preah Sihanouk Province.

Among factors influencing both food security and economic security, the search for mitigation measures to support local food producers and supply chains emerged saliently — see in particular Figure 7 and Figure 8. Suggestions by survey participants are synthesised below.

- **Providing local food producers and supply chains with promotional support at a level comparable to top priority activities such as the local Garment Industry and the Sihanoukville Port** — That suggestion emanated from various residents including a senior university professor,

46 See the World Bank Group's report on Malaysia's Experience with Transforming Land Administration (Kelm, 2017)

recognising that a positive transformation will require the Provincial authorities in charge of strategic planning to promote local food production as a flagship activity. Such a promotion would identify and support opportunities for local producers of processed food to connect to regional and global value chains — a strategic priority that is clearly emphasized by the NSDP 2019-2023 and the IDP 2015-2025.

- ▶ **Providing local food producers and supply chains with modern market infrastructures** — Among proposals suggested by survey participants for empowering local food producers and supply chains is the development of modern agro-industrial market infrastructures specialised for fresh food products; a typical model being that of the agro-industrial park (also known as “agropark” or “agropole”). A comparison of prominent features of agro-industry investment promotion tools — namely Agroc corridor vs. Agrobased Cluster vs. Agropark vs. SEZ vs. Agro Incubator — may be found in a sourcebook by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO, 2017). The relevance of an agropark infrastructure model in the context of smart, inclusive and sustainable Sihanoukville City is discussed in Chapter 5.

At the core of Figure 7 lies the repeated reference to rapid urbanisation as a root cause. Survey participants from varied backgrounds expressed a common expectation, which is for the **Province Governor to take the opportunity of this smart city developmental initiative to conduct broad consultations including the public sector, private sector, Academia and civil society precisely for the purpose of building a consensus on concepts, notions and implications of a smart city policy for Sihanoukville City. Residents proposed that the consultations be facilitated by the local Academia — namely the University of Management and Economics (UME), Build Bright University (BBU) and Life University (LU).**

The situation of underdeveloped human capital is shown in Figure 7 to be linked with the extent of responsible business practices by medium-sized and large businesses. Survey participants, including a senior university professor as well as actual employees from foreign businesses, observed that opportunities for skills upgrade offered by the employer vary according to the business origin (lowest or non-existing in Chinese-owned businesses). **They suggested policy-level or strategic planning-level**

**interventions that would attract investors and firms from more diverse origins, and would encourage firms to elevate their social performance through skills upgrade and career development plans for employees.**

In order to mitigate adverse effects of employment volatility, a university professor suggested the **periodic organisation of effective job fairs** with the support of local authorities and the private sector.

In order to mitigate the effect of adverse competition by migrant workers operating micro-businesses informally — taxi drivers, street sellers, repair workers, etc. — survey participants suggested that **policymakers restrict FDI to activities that do not jeopardize business opportunities for Cambodian nationals and local authorities apply stricter controls against the conduct of informal business by foreigners.**

Survey participants recognised the role of the Internet infrastructure as an economic enabler and the shortcomings of Internet service levels throughout the city — part of which seems to be resulting from a situation of high concentration in the Internet Service Provider (ISP) market (see Figure 7). As a mitigation measure, survey participants suggested **strategic planning interventions for encouraging higher competition across ISPs and improving Internet service levels around the city in general and on university campuses in particular.**

Another factor cutting across economic and food security is the rise of food prices noted by Sihanoukville residents (see Figure 7 and Figure 8). Survey participants suggested **harnessing digital technologies for implementing effective controls on food prices, for example by allowing residents to feed the Central Government and Provincial Authorities with reports on real food prices in real time — doubled with effective data analytics solutions on the administration side.**

Regarding health-related security, governance settings and controls were pointed out by a majority of survey participants as an influential factor having repercussions on healthcare service delivery by either public or private institutions (see Figure 9). Sihanoukville residents expect the **Central Government to amend governance settings in the healthcare sector, and Provincial authorities to perform stricter controls regarding medical staff qualifications in private institutions and service delivery performance in public institutions, as possible preventive measures.**

Regarding factors influencing environmental security, residents made the following suggestions for preventive measures:

- ▶ Survey participants generally acknowledged that the national level strategic planning for environmental sustainability matters is adequate, and that the action of the Province Governor currently is likely to induce a positive change. The preventive measure lies in the **consistency of enforcement and monitoring actions at local level**. In particular, residents expect that local authorities enforce **stricter controls against uncivil behaviours by the population such as littering**.
- ▶ The potential **installation of video surveillance around the city** by the local authorities, doubled with the potential **use of social media by residents for diffusing videos of uncivil behaviours** is regarded by residents as preventive measures that will discourage the said behaviours.
- ▶ As a possible approach for addressing the matter of accumulation of solid waste in urban areas, survey participants suggested to:
  - o **Reopen the selection of a trash collection service provider for public tender;**
  - o **Provide households with standardised trash bins;**
  - o **Organise education programs for residents on environmentally friendly behaviours, selective sorting of solid waste, occupational health and safety at the workplace; and installation of signboards around the city.**
- ▶ Survey participants also recognised the need for residents to self-organise and discuss environment-related matters, as part of a more general Smart City Charter. The reduction of the usage of plastic was quoted as an example of a high-priority topic.

While invited to comment on their sense of community-level security in a foreseeable future, survey participants shared suggestions regarding organised crime and drug trafficking:

- ▶ Central Government to **strengthen accountability within law enforcement authorities**, as a preventive measure against potential risks of collusion with organised crime networks, especially drug trafficking.
- ▶ Local authorities to **develop training programs to educate adults and youth about the dangers of drug use**.

Survey participants also suggested a range of measures destined to prevent irresponsible driving behaviours:

- ▶ Municipality to **install video surveillance cameras** as a preventive measure against irresponsible driving behaviours.
- ▶ Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport to **integrate road traffic and security topics in school curricula**.
- ▶ Municipality to **develop adequate taxi stations around the city offering higher convenience to both residents and taxi drivers** — e.g. smartphone charging station, Wi-Fi access points, digital information dashboard, and toilets.
- ▶ Municipality to **expedite the installation of traffic lights and road signs throughout the city**.

Preventing a degradation of the trust of the population in various institutions — e.g. justice, police, administration — was regarded as a matter of utmost importance by survey participants, who suggested the following measure. The Law on administration and other tenets of the legal/regulatory framework include provisions for public consultations, which **ought to be put into practice systematically**.

## 4.2 Proposals for Mitigating Effects Downstream — Protective and Empowering Measures

Section 4.1 proposed a range of preventive measures addressing root causes and adverse effects upstream. Complementarily, this section presents suggestions of measures evoked by survey participants for protecting and empowering Sihanoukville residents.

Multiple interviewees considered that access to knowledge, training and education represents the most effective avenue for empowering and protecting Sihanoukville residents. That consideration transpired on a range of levels. Already evoked as preventive measures in Chapter 4 and equally relevant as a protective measures: empowering Sihanoukville residents from all backgrounds with a better awareness of existing land rights-related laws, regulations, judicial mechanisms, and grievance and redress mechanisms, and; organising broad consultations including the public sector, private sector, Academia and civil society precisely for the purpose of building a consensus on concepts,

notions and implications of a smart city policy for Sihanoukville City. In addition, interviewees suggested the **Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport to consider incorporating smart city topics<sup>47</sup> in curricula on all levels of education**, from primary school to higher education curricula. Also, the survey revealed a strong demand from residents to benefit from **training workshops on modern agriculture techniques<sup>48</sup>**.

As a protective measure against structural/developmental/contingency factors challenging the residents' economic security, survey participants proposed the following measures:

- ▶ Local authorities to identify and **reallocate public lands that are currently vacant for farming purposes for jobseekers and other residents in search of income generation options**, on a voluntary and temporary basis.
- ▶ Local authorities and private sector to **empower small entrepreneurial projects<sup>49</sup> by Sihanoukville residents, providing those with adequate financial support schemes**.
- ▶ Local authorities and the private sector to **empower residents by providing those with effective business matching services<sup>50</sup>**.

As an academic pointed out that **a necessary condition for establishing economic resilience on a local level is for local authorities — i.e. Sangkat/Phum/Khum levels — to be provided with greater autonomy of decision and action**. Note: A range of instruments exist for leveraging an autonomy of decision and action at local level, which are discussed in Section 5.3.

From the perspective of food security, there seems to be an **expectation from residents that Provincial authorities apply stricter controls on food quality, especially regarding imports**.

From the perspective of health security, survey participants conveyed a variety of suggestions as follows:

- ▶ **An effective protection of residents subject to drug addiction, and an effective protection of the population against drug-related crimes require local authorities to recognise the development**

**of drug rehabilitation centres as highly strategic and plan accordingly.**

- ▶ **An effective protection of the population at local level requires training programs to be directed to Village/Sangkat/Community Chiefs and personnel so as to build “social worker” skills.**
- ▶ An effective protection of vulnerable families implies **making the access to the IDPoor card easier** to them.

From the perspective of environmental security, there seems to be an **expectation from residents that local authorities take more effective action toward the preservation of the natural environment and ecosystems**.

In addition, survey participants voiced the following expectations cutting across personal security, community-level security and trust in institutions:

- ▶ Residents aspire to a **peaceful resolution of disputes in general**, and over land rights in particular.
- ▶ Residents expect **local authorities to develop training programs to educate adults and youth about the dangers of drug use**.
- ▶ Residents expect **public consultations to be more systematic**.
- ▶ Residents expect central and local authorities to increase action for enforcing rules and **combatting crime in general; with an emphasis on drug trafficking, robberies, domestic violence, as well as irresponsible driving behaviours such as speeding and drink driving**.
- ▶ Residents aspire for a **fairer justice** and expect the judicial system to amend its practices.

Such expectations hint on a need for implementing reforms such as:

- ▶ **Strengthening grievance procedures, transparency, procedural justice, and informational justice** for both the judicial system and the executive system.
- ▶ **Institutional reforms reinforcing the residents' trust in grievance procedures and the residents' sense of interactional justice**.

<sup>47</sup> e.g. road traffic safety, environmentally friendly practices, occupation health and safety at the workplace, etc.

<sup>48</sup> See further elaborations in Section 0

<sup>49</sup> ditto

<sup>50</sup> ditto



# 5 Recommendations for a Smart City Model for Sihanoukville as per Experts' Views

This chapter proposes a framing of “smart city” that takes a more holistic approach to what “smart” means, moving beyond defining it merely as a city that is digitally enabled. All recommendations presented below hinge on the findings of the human security field study.

## 5.1 Recommendations Regarding Inclusiveness

**Inclusiveness in the sense of equality of access to information and equal opportunity for knowledge upgrade** — This study revealed a strong aspiration from Sihanoukville residents from all backgrounds for accessing information and augmenting their knowledge in a variety of disciplines. Building inclusiveness will imply progressing on the following fronts:

- ▶ **Building media/information/data literacy among all social groups** — which may be achieved by harnessing existing training programmes by prominent CSOs such as the Media & Information Literacy<sup>51</sup> workshop series by the Cambodia Centre for Independent Media (CCIM) and the Data Literacy<sup>52</sup> program by Open Development Cambodia (ODC).
- ▶ **Building the capacity of Sihanoukville residents to report information on issues and concerns they encountered in their communities by training them on basic journalism and use of social media technologies** — which may be achieved by harnessing existing initiatives such as CCIM Citizen Journalists Project<sup>53</sup>.
- ▶ **Enabling Internet connectivity throughout Sihanoukville City on an inclusive basis** — whereby all strategic zones including schools, universities and areas of public gatherings are provided with high and reliable Internet service levels.

**Inclusiveness in the sense of equal treatment regardless of social origins** — This study revealed

situations of discriminatory behaviours, in particular discrimination experienced by IDPoor cardholders while accessing public healthcare institution. A natural approach for alleviating that kind of discrimination is **to strengthen grievance and redress mechanisms available to residents** and to consider renaming the IDPoor programme to another name with more positive connotations.

**Inclusiveness based on geography** — The survey revealed situations where some community living in peri-urban areas lack connections with basic services such as water distribution and electrical power distribution. **Any smart city developmental plan should strive to provide a uniform level of urban management services throughout the jurisdictions in scope.**

**Inclusiveness in the sense of inclusive business** — This study revealed disconnects between business communities. An example is the mindset of the Chairman of the Sihanoukville Special Economic Zone who declined to answer a questionnaire designed to collect his vision of a smart city developmental model for Sihanoukville City and the potential role of the SSEZ in a positive transformation, which he considered not relevant. Another disconnect is that of the local supply chains for fresh food production from the Sihanoukville value chains. A third example is a predominant position in larger firms that regard the local workforce as an opportunity to access low-cost labour and an easy way to derive price-based competitive advantages, as opposed to an opportunity for building human capital for Sihanoukville and the Preah Sihanouk Province.

## 5.2 Recommendations Regarding Sustainability

**Environmental sustainability** —

The key issues that have emerged from interviews in relation to the Human Security Framework in the context of environmental security include waste management,

51 <https://ccimcambodia.org/?cat=44>

52 <https://opendevdevelopmentcambodia.net/about/data-literacy/>

53 <https://ccimcambodia.org/?cat=76>

stormwater management (e.g., flooding), and planning and construction management (including construction safety, urban planning, traffic management). More generally environmental planning and assessment, including Master Planning for Sihanoukville and environmental protection, and the consequences of land acquisition and resumption (including resettlement and livelihood issues) underpin significant concerns over security.

It must be stated clearly that this is not due to the absence of laws, regulations and policies. The RGC has created, in most areas, a strong legal and regulated framework to address these insecurities. In most specific cases the insecurity is created by the failure to ensure that these laws and regulations are fully complied with. The need for strong compliance and enforcement of existing legal frameworks, and the introduction of greater transparency and innovative approaches to community engagement and participation will significantly reduce these insecurities and promote significant benefits for the people of Sihanoukville.

Additionally, by addressing global and national environmental concerns, such as climate change, air and water pollution, and ecosystem protection from encroachment and illegal and unlawful urban and coastal developments, the RGC can promote the development of the Sihanoukville Smart City concept in accordance with best practice principles as well as achieve its own national development goals and sustainable development agenda.

Prevention is recognised as being a key feature within the Human Security Framework. There are a number of techniques that if adopted will promote security. These include: good Master Planning, the use of strategic environmental assessment, project-level environmental and social impact assessment, green building codes and construction and occupancy certificates (to prove that the construction meets conditions of approval and all safety standards)<sup>54</sup>.

Local authorities should strive to develop their own knowledge and expertise in land titling and resettlement in light of the expected and continued significant changes in Preah Sihanouk Province. They should support local communities and their representatives to build expertise recognising that factors contributing to security during the land titling process include: land claimants and authorities having a high level of knowledge about

land rights and titling processes; people kept well informed early and during the process by authorities through strong community networks; and community representatives accompanying survey teams and authorities during land surveying.

The RGC's approach of using different types of mechanisms to resolve land disputes is useful; as studies, including this one, have shown that trust in resolving disputes through the judicial system is not high. Providing other, more localised avenues that are empowered to resolve disputes would better match current demands. However, knowledge and use of dispute resolution mechanisms is limited, indicating the need for further awareness raising and transparency about dispute mechanisms.

### **Economic sustainability —**

This study revealed the decay of farming activities in Preah Sihanouk Province and the increasing dependency of Sihanoukville on food product importation. While it is understood that a discussion on technical remedies falls beyond the scope of the present report, a key recommendation is for the expectation of Sihanoukville residents voiced during consultations to be heard — that is, considering the revival of local farming activities and supply chains as a key strategic matter of smart city planning. Avenues may vary according to the degree of control which Provincial authorities intend to keep in that process: from a liberal approach where the private sector developments are influenced through incentives set out by policymakers; to a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) where the distribution of roles and responsibilities is more balanced; to a centralised approach where a revival plan would be steered at Province-level. In the geographical context of Sihanoukville combining connections by sea, air, rail and road, and in a national context promoting the Industry 4.0 model, the suggestion of one of the survey participants to develop a Sihanoukville Agropark appears to be particularly relevant; and a PPP-based approach particularly well suited.

This study revealed that Sihanoukville residents envision a smart Sihanoukville city whereby sustainability is achieved by empowering talent and entrepreneurship. The elaboration of a smart city model ought to consider relevant approaches. Typical measures include providing adequate infrastructure such as coworking spaces, supporting the development of business incubators

<sup>54</sup> A capacity building plan may seek inspiration from an ongoing program supported by the World Bank and benefiting Bangladesh Capital City Dhaka named "Urban Resilience Project", a major outcome of which is the implementation of an Electronic Construction Permitting (ECP) system under the Capital Development Authority of the Government of Bangladesh. That authority already manages a detailed area plan geolocating every land plot, that is made available online to the public. Thanks to the ECP system to be launched by end of 2021, the authority in charge will soon be able to streamline all construction permitting processes and make non-confidential information on construction permits and occupancy certificates accessible to the public online.

and business accelerators, organising business matching events, organising pitching events for entrepreneurs to present their projects to investors, etc. A developmental program may wish to harness partnerships with existing business incubators and accelerators in Cambodia such as Incubateur Confluences Co., Ltd<sup>55</sup>, Impact Hub Phnom Penh<sup>56</sup> or RainTree Development<sup>57</sup>.

In a policymaking context striving for the promotion of an Industry 4.0 developmental paradigm and the implementation of a multi-purpose SEZ in Sihanoukville, the question of Industrial relations is gaining increasing importance. The conformance of domestic laws with international labour standards is an increasingly important issue for foreign investors, and their investors, and will be an important benchmark for many when assessing the SEZ as a location that is in compliance with international standards. The growing international attention among foreign investors and their investors to “ESG” (environmental, social and governance) issues provides an opportunity for international locations such as the Sihanoukville SEZ to turn alignment with international ESG standards into a competitive advantage.

## 5.3 Recommendations Regarding Smart Engagement

The consultations conducted in this study revealed a willingness from Sihanoukville residents to take initiative and participate in the positive transformation to come, provided that they are empowered adequately to that end: empowered thanks to urban infrastructures such as venues made available to residents for holding information sharing seminars; empowered thanks to efficient and reliable Internet services for enabling digital participation; empowered through a fruitful dialogue with local authorities and strengthened collaboration that builds dignity into the very design of the city.<sup>58</sup>

This section highlights opportunities of the Sihanoukville civil society to harness existing legal provisions and engage in a fruitful dialogue with the public sector at local levels, building up from introductory material presented in Section 2.1.

**Reinforcing accountability, transparency and engagement at local level** — Commune and Sangkat Councils have autonomy of decision and action on several levels, including: a consultation process with the public within its jurisdiction and dissemination of information to citizens; a three-year (3) rolling investment program and five-year (5) development plan of the council, and an annual budget plan and expenditure plan for the mid-term period.

By law, the Commune Council must take the following matters into consideration:

- **“Assessment of the level of existing development status within its jurisdiction and the assessment of the priority development needs** in respect to the following: [...] **Basic and necessary services, facilities, materials and public infrastructure; Reduction of poverty; Other needs of women, men, youth, children and vulnerable groups including poor people and indigenous people.**
- A development framework which describes **basic principles for the use and management of land and natural resources in that area;**
- A **disaster management plan;** [...]
- A strategy for the implementation of the council’s development plan to **ensure transparency and accountability to all citizens within its jurisdiction;**
- **Key performance indicators and targets related to development objectives and priorities within the development plan.”**

**informing decisions made at Provincial level** — Members of the Commune Council may conduct enquiries or survey regarding any matter of interest for the local jurisdiction so as to inform further decision-making by the Province Governor or the Council of Governors.

**Reinforcing public consultation** — The 5-year Commune Development Plan must be approved by the Commune Council during the first year of its mandate and be reviewed annually. By law, the Commune Council must define a method of public consultation underpinning the elaboration of that plan. A copy of the annual report on performance monitoring must be made accessible to the public. **The working relations between the municipal administration and private sector and civil society operating within its jurisdiction include:**

<sup>55</sup> <https://www.confluences.com.kh/about/>

<sup>56</sup> <https://phnompenh.impacthub.net/about-us/>

<sup>57</sup> <https://www.raintreecambodia.com/about-us/>

<sup>58</sup> Institute for Human Rights and Business, “Dignity by Design: Human Rights and the Built Environment Lifecycle” (July 2019), at: <https://www.ihrb.org/focus-areas/built-environment/report-dignity-by-design-human-rights-and-the-built-environment->

- The municipal administration may **facilitate and encourage private sector and civil society to participate in the formulation and implementation of a five (5) year development plan, a three-year (3) rolling investment program, workplan, project or programs of the municipal administration** — which is directly relevant in the context of a smart city;
- The municipal administration may **coordinate for establishment of partnerships with private sector and civil society to jointly promote public service delivery and local development in response to people's prioritized needs** — which is directly relevant in the context of a smart city;
- The municipal administration may **support private sector and civil society for providing public services and local development** based on availability of the resources of the municipal administration — which may be leveraged to implement preventive and protective measures set forth in Sections 4.1 and 4.2;
- The municipal administration **encourages private sector and civil society to initiate the voice of citizen's needs and requests for municipal administration to issue Deika or decision or provide interventions** — an opportunity which the private sector and civil society ought to seize in the context of a smart city;
- The municipal administration shall **hold regular meetings with private sector and civil society to jointly address the challenges** — an existing provision which the private sector and civil society should harness for the purpose of smart engagement.

The Women's and Children's Consultative Committee (WCCC) is expected to publish an annual report covering the following matters:

- The **general situation of women's participation in promoting democratic development and the status of children under jurisdiction of the council**;
- Achievements and challenges of the Women's and Children's Consultative Committee; and recommendations for strengthening this committee;
- **Recommendations for improving women's participation in promoting democratic**

#### **development.**

**Holding Communes and Sangkats accountable for their primary mission** — The missions of Communes and Sangkats are defined as follows:

- "Maintain security and public order.
- Organise and manage the necessary public services.
- Encourage hygiene conditions and welfare of citizens.
- Promote socioeconomic development and improvement of living standards of citizens.
- Protect and preserve the environment, natural resources, cultural and national heritage.
- Promote dialogue, tolerance and mutual understanding among citizens.
- Carry out general duties to respond to citizens' needs."

#### **Modernising the means of information dissemination**

— The Commune Council is bound by law to create favourable conditions for the public when disseminating public information on reports, agenda of meetings, minutes of meeting, bylaw, laws, royal decrees, sub-decrees and Prakas relating to the council and other documents of the council". Article 52: "Each council shall have a public information board or other means of information dissemination at its main office and in other places within its jurisdiction that are easily accessed by citizens for public information." The elaboration of a smart city developmental plan for Sihanoukville ought **to seize the opportunity to modernise the means of information dissemination through ICT, digitalisation and e-Governance.**

#### **Opportunities for extending the scope of**

**"permissive functions"** — As per Sub Decree No. 285 ANK.BK dated 18 November 2014 on The Selection, Management, Arrangement and Execution of Permissive Functions by Sub-National Administration, art. 5: "The selection of permissive functions by Sub-National Administration shall be based on the following principles<sup>59</sup>: [...]

- Serve or provide benefits mainly to citizens in the jurisdiction of the council;
- Are based on the need of citizens or local priorities in their jurisdiction, especially the needs of women, children and the vulnerable people."

<sup>59</sup> Article 7: "The management, arrangement and execution of permissive functions shall be based on the principles of efficiency, transparency, accountability, consultation, inclusiveness and equity."

## 6 Strategic Recommendations and Programmatic Suggestions

This chapter presents a complementary view of the recommendations outlined in Chapter 4 and Chapter 5, by highlighting their alignment with four important benchmarks:

- ▶ At the **national level**: (i) Cambodia's **Rectangular Strategy Phase IV (RPS-IV)**, and the (ii) **National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP) 2019-2023**, and other national strategic plans.
- ▶ At the **international level**: Drawing on RGC's international commitments (i) to the SDGs and (ii) made during the latest **Universal Periodic Reviews** under the auspices of the UN Human Rights Council

It will benefit policymakers and program developers seeking opportunities for harnessing the strategic visions, laws, development plans and policies that are already in place. A shortlist of 10 recommendations is presented hereunder.

### 6.1 Turning the Sihanoukville Smart City into a Champion of the “Acceleration of Governance Reform” Envisioned in the RSP-IV and Affirmed in the NSDP 2019-2023

#### A. First recommendation: Reinforce a higher autonomy of decision-making at the local level and a higher degree of participation of residents in the local policymaking process.

As part of the Acceleration of Governance Reform, the vision expressed in the RSP-IV mandates the RGC to focus on the following priorities during the sixth Legislature of the National Assembly (elected in July 2018): (i) “Delegating power, transferring

functions, resources and techniques to all levels of administrative entities under line ministries-institutions, public establishments, sub-national administration to achieve a reasonable level of autonomy in terms of decision-making, supervision and management of human and financial resources; while clearly defining accountability and responsibility of public entities and public officials”; (ii) “Encouraging people’s participation in the process of development as well as formulation and implementation of various policies”<sup>60</sup>.

**Insofar as a smart city is expected to distinguish itself from other cities through a higher autonomy of decision-making at a local level and a higher degree of participation of residents in the policymaking process — and in response to aspirations reflected in consultations (see Chapters 4 & 5) — an opportunity arises for the to-be Sihanoukville smart city development plan to align with this RSP-IV vision.**

To that effect, the Sihanoukville Smart City Working Group (SSCWG) may wish to review and harness the NSDP 2019-2023 implementation plans as follows:

- ▶ The Mol has been made responsible under the NSDP 2019-2023 for “improving the quality of public services and the development of the sub-national administration (SNA)”<sup>61</sup>.

The SSCWG may wish to seize that opportunity, synergise with Mol and explore avenues for identifying the Sihanoukville smart city as a high priority beneficiary in Mol’s implementation plans.

- ▶ The National Committee for Democratic Development (NCDD) has been made responsible under the NSDP 2019-2023 for “continuing to strengthen and modify SNA structures and management systems”<sup>62</sup>, for “continuing to promote the transfer of priority functions to SNAs”<sup>63</sup>, and for “continuing to promote decentralization of finance”<sup>64</sup>.

The SSCWG may wish to seize that opportunity, synergise with NCDD and explore:

60 Excerpt from English translation of RSP-IV, Section 2.2.1. Acceleration of Governance Reform, paragraph 2) Strengthening of Cleanliness in the Public Administration

61 Excerpt from English translation of NSDP 2019-2023, CHAPTER IV KEY POLICY PRIORITIES AND ACTIONS 2019-2023, SECTION 1. ACCELERATION OF GOVERNANCE REFORM: CORE OF THE RECTANGULAR STRATEGY, sub-section 1.1 INSTITUTIONAL REFORM AND CAPACITY BUILDING, sub-section 4.12

62 idem — sub-section 1.3 STRENGTHENING OF WORK EFFECTIVENESS, DECENTRALIZATION AND DE-CONCENTRATION REFORMS, sub-section 4.23

63 ibidem

64 ibidem



- i. which functions may be transferred locally<sup>65</sup> (see Section 5.3);
- ii. how roles/responsibilities of each Sihanoukville SNA may be defined more clearly so as to make local development more efficient, transparent, accountable, inclusive and socially equitable<sup>66</sup>;
- iii. how to strengthen the capacity of Sihanoukville SNAs in the implementation of legal, regulatory and enhanced labour standards;
- iv. how to turn Sihanoukville SNAs into champions of public service delivery and direct economic development for the residents;
- v. how to elect Preah Sihanouk Province and Sihanoukville municipalities, Districts/Khans, Communes/Sangkats top priority for the upgrade and modernisation of the “One Window Service” to provide residents with enhanced access, transparency, efficiency and accountability of public services.

The following table highlights the linkages of this recommendation with global SDGs and Universal Periodic Review (UPR) recommendations which RGC has accepted.

<b>Sustainable Development Goals</b>	SDG 11: “Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable” ▶ Target 11.3: Inclusive and sustainable urbanisation SDG 16: “Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels” ▶ Target 16.6: “Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels” ▶ Target 16.7: “Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels” ▶ Target 16.10: “Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements” SDG 5: “Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls” ▶ Target 5.5: “Ensure full participation in leadership and decision making”
<b>UPR Recommendations</b>	▶ 110.128 Continue its considerable efforts to promote and protect human rights through a concrete commitment to good governance, transparency, public participation in decision-making processes and access to justice. ▶ 110.129 Take further steps to fight corruption by strengthening accountability and institutional capacity. ▶ 110.122 Take all steps necessary to strengthen the rule of law.

## **B. Second recommendation: Empower enhanced citizen-government dialogue, including through adequate digital participation platforms and effective grievance/redress mechanisms.**

As part of the Acceleration of Governance Reform, the vision expressed in the RSP-IV mandates the RGC to focus on the following priorities during the sixth Legislature of the National Assembly: (i) “Strengthening and expanding public disclosure of updated information on public services, legal documents and national policy documents”; and (ii) “Promoting the implementation of mechanisms for receiving feedback and handling complaints from public service users along with accessing the possibility of using IT system to support the implementation”.<sup>67</sup>

**Insofar as a smart city is expected to distinguish itself from other cities by providing residents with, enhanced citizen-government dialogue including through adequate digital participation platforms and effective grievance/redress mechanisms — and in response to aspirations reflected in consultations (see Chapters 4 & 5) — an opportunity arises for the to-be Sihanoukville smart city development plan to align with this RSP-IV vision.**

<sup>65</sup> ibidem

<sup>66</sup> ibidem

<sup>67</sup> Excerpt from English translation of RSP-IV, Section 2.2.1. Acceleration of Governance Reform, paragraph 2) Strengthening of Cleanliness in the Public Administration

The Ministry of Civil Services (MCS) has been made responsible under the NSDP 2019-2023 for “Promoting the quality of public service delivery”.<sup>68</sup>

The SSCWG may wish to seize that opportunity, synergise with MCS and:

- i. Monitor the progress of MCS with “Establishing and introducing an innovation fund for improving public service delivery through promoting the innovation in public service delivery”<sup>69</sup>, and leverage every opportunity for the Sihanoukville smart city to benefit from that innovation fund;
- ii. Promote the Sihanoukville smart city as a high priority beneficiary while “Developing and implementing legal documents and guidelines for strengthening the efficiency and accountability of public service delivery units at national and sub-national levels”<sup>70</sup>;
- iii. Consider the Sihanoukville smart city as a high priority beneficiary while “Promoting the development and implementation of public service standards in public service units to improve the standards of public service delivery and the use of ICT in the delivery of public services”<sup>71</sup>;
- iv. Promote the Sihanoukville smart city as a high priority beneficiary while “Continuing to expand the implementation of public service delivery mechanisms”<sup>72</sup>;
- v. Promote the Sihanoukville smart city as a relevant case study while “Preparing case

studies on model public service units and public service innovation and dissemination to promote the movement of public services delivery”<sup>73</sup>;

- vi. Ensure that Sihanoukville smart city’s public services and civil servants are identified as focal points while “Training focal points and conducting dissemination workshops on improving the quality of public services at national and sub-national levels”<sup>74</sup>;
- vii. Promote the Sihanoukville smart city as a high priority beneficiary while “Improving the efficiency of the implementation of the feedback and complaints handling mechanism at all public service delivery units”<sup>75</sup>;
- viii. Promote the Sihanoukville smart city as a high priority beneficiary while “Strengthening the efficiency of the implementation of receiving and solving feedback mechanisms and complaints of service users at all public service delivery units”<sup>76</sup>; and
- ix. Consider the Sihanoukville smart city’s OWS as a champion for “Improving the quality of public services through the use of information technology, service integration mechanism in the One Window Service mechanism”<sup>77</sup>.

The following table highlights the linkages of this recommendation with global SDGs and Universal Periodic Review (UPR) recommendations which RGC has accepted.

<p><b>Sustainable Development Goals</b></p>	<p>SDG 16: “Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Target 16.3: “Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all”</li> <li>▶ Target 16.10: “Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements”</li> </ul>
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68 Excerpt from English translation of NSDP 2019-2023, CHAPTER IV KEY POLICY PRIORITIES AND ACTIONS 2019-2023, SECTION 1. ACCELERATION OF GOVERNANCE REFORM: CORE OF THE RECTANGULAR STRATEGY, sub-section 1.1 INSTITUTIONAL REFORM AND CAPACITY BUILDING, sub-section 4.13

69 idem, sub-section 4.14

70 ibidem

71 ibidem

72 ibidem

73 ibidem

74 ibidem

75 ibidem

76 ibidem

77 idem, sub-section 4.13

## UPR

### Recommendations

- ▶ 110.103 Promote dialogue among political actors, freedom and the rights of the people and the democratic process, in order to unite the people towards development; in this process, ensure an environment in which the rights of all political actors, civil society, the media and others are respected and their activities are not constrained
- ▶ 110.12 Amend the law on associations and non-governmental organizations to bring it into line with the State's obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
- ▶ 110.28 Protect non-governmental organizations and associations, and ensure that the administrative provisions of the law on associations and non-governmental organizations are not used to close down, suspend or otherwise negatively affect non governmental organizations and associations
- ▶ 110.26 Align laws, such as the law on associations and non governmental organizations, the trade union law, the law on political parties and the telecommunications law, with international obligations;
- ▶ 110.81 Guarantee freedom of expression for all citizens and journalists, including on the Internet, by revising the latest constitutional amendment and the interministerial instruction of May 2018 allowing surveillance of Internet contents
- ▶ 110.83 Ensure freedom of expression on the Internet by revoking interministerial decree No. 170 on "publication controls of websites and social media processing via the Internet"
- ▶ 110.96 Amend the law on telecommunications, and adopt the law on access to information in line with international standards of the right to the freedom of expression and the right to privacy
- ▶ 110.110 Ensure a free civic space, allowing human rights defenders and journalists to freely express themselves both offline and online, without fear of harassment or reprisal, and refrain from prosecuting persons for exercising their fundamental rights under the Criminal Code and the law on telecommunications

### C. Third recommendation: Reinforce awareness about laws, rights, and obligations set in the laws.

As part of the Acceleration of Governance Reform, the vision expressed in the RSP-IV mandates the RGC to focus on the following priorities during the sixth Legislature of the National Assembly, namely "Enhancing judicial service by improving work effectiveness of enforcement officials, strengthening public confidence in the judicial system, and fighting all kinds of abuse and violation in the society through: 1). strengthening law enforcement, 2). strengthening cleanliness and professional ethics of enforcement officials, 3). strengthening work discipline mechanism and modernization of justice administration, 4). stepping up the provision of legal service, and 5). strengthening and improving conflict

resolution mechanism which effectively respond to actual circumstances in the society"<sup>78</sup>.

**Insofar as a smart city is expected to distinguish itself from other cities through an improved awareness about laws, rights, and obligations set in the laws — and in response to aspirations reflected in consultations (see Chapters 4 & 5) — an opportunity arises for the to-be Sihanoukville smart city development plan to align with this RSP-IV vision.**

To that effect, SSCWG may wish to review and harness the NSDP 2019-2023 implementation plans as follows. The Ministry of National Assembly-Senate Relation and Inspection (MONASRI) has been made responsible under the NSDP 2019-2023 for "Strengthening education and dissemination of laws"<sup>79</sup>.

<sup>78</sup> Excerpt from English translation of RSP-IV, Section 2.2.1. Acceleration of Governance Reform, paragraph 2) Strengthening of Cleanliness in the Public Administration

<sup>79</sup> Excerpt from English translation of NSDP 2019-2023, CHAPTER IV KEY POLICY PRIORITIES AND ACTIONS 2019-2023, SECTION 1. ACCELERATION OF GOVERNANCE REFORM: CORE OF THE RECTANGULAR STRATEGY, sub-section 1.2 STRENGTHENING ACCOUNTABILITY AND INTEGRITY IN THE PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, sub-section 4.20

The SSCWG may wish to seize that opportunity, synergise with the MONASRI and:

- i. Explore how ICT and media can be harnessed in the Sihanoukville smart city for “Continuing to promote the 11 priority laws to the people to raise their awareness about laws, rights, and obligations set in the laws, Land Law, Forestry Law, Fishery Law, Law on Domestic Violence and Protection of Victims, Law on Management of Private Medical, Paramedical, and Medical Aide Practice, Law on Medicine Control, Traffic Law, Law on Drug Control, Law on Preventing the Spread of HIV/AIDS, Law on Environment Protection and Natural Resources Management, Law on Management of Weapons, Explosives and Ammunition, and Law on Cultural and Heritage Protection”<sup>80</sup>;
- ii. Consider the Sihanoukville smart city as a champion while “Continuing to analyse situation and primary study on the 11 priority laws to measure the understanding level and legal requirements of the people by

geography before starting the official law dissemination”<sup>81</sup>; and,

- iii. Promote the Sihanoukville smart city as a flagship while “Preparing roundtable discussions on TV and talk shows on radio”<sup>82</sup>.

In addition, the SSCWG may wish to synergise with the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and promote the Sihanoukville smart city as a partner for the planned judicial reform — giving special consideration to the following objectives outlined under NSDP 2019-2023:

- i. “Providing better access to legal and judicial information”,
- ii. “Strengthening the judicial services, including judicial and prosecutorial services”, and
- iii. “Strengthening legal and judicial sector institutions to fulfil their mandates.”<sup>83</sup>

The following table highlights the linkages of this recommendation with global SDGs and Universal Periodic Review (UPR) recommendations which RGC has accepted.

<b>Sustainable Development Goals</b>	<p>SDG 16: “Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Target 16.3: “Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all”</li> <li>▶ Target 16.10: “Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements”</li> </ul>
<b>UPR Recommendations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ 110.81 Guarantee freedom of expression for all citizens and journalists, including on the Internet, by revising the latest constitutional amendment and the interministerial instruction of May 2018 allowing surveillance of Internet contents</li> <li>▶ 110.125 /110.127 Strengthen the independence and functioning of the judiciary, in particular by repealing or significantly amending the law on the organization of courts, the law on the statute of judges and prosecutors and the law on the organization and functioning of the Supreme Council of the Magistracy</li> <li>▶ 110.121 Complete the process of judicial reform, safeguarding the independence and impartiality of the court system, court personnel and judges, in accordance with international standards</li> <li>▶ 110.124 Further advance judiciary reforms and establish an independent justice system that is trusted and utilized by the people; to this end, make maximum use of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia as a model</li> <li>▶ 110.120 Establish regional appeals courts in accordance with the law on the organization of courts, and ensure their proper operationalization by 2023</li> </ul>

<sup>80</sup> idem

<sup>81</sup> ibidem

<sup>82</sup> ibidem

<sup>83</sup> Excerpt from English translation of NSDP 2019-2023, CHAPTER IV KEY POLICY PRIORITIES AND ACTIONS 2019-2023, SECTION 1. ACCELERATION OF GOVERNANCE REFORM: CORE OF THE RECTANGULAR STRATEGY, sub-section 1.3 STRENGTHENING OF WORK EFFECTIVENESS, sub-section 4.26

## 6.2 Turning Sihanoukville into a Champion of Environmental Sustainability — as Envisioned in the RSP-IV and Affirmed in the NSDP 2019-2023

### D. Fourth recommendation: Achieve higher environmental sustainability and life quality standards.

As part of “Rectangle 4 – Inclusive and Sustainable Development”, the vision expressed in the RSP-IV mandates the RGC to focus on the following priorities during the sixth Legislature of the National Assembly, namely “Strengthening Urban Planning and Management” by: 1). Continuing to [...] accelerate the development of a master plan and land use plan for land management, urban planning and construction, at both national and sub-national levels, aiming to manage and use land more efficiently; 2). Strengthening the competency to manage [...] the development of land use plans for municipalities, district-khan, commune-sangkat nationwide (preparing strategic direction for land zoning and residential management by using technology); 3). Formulating an infrastructure master plan for main cities and urban area to support the development of roads, railways and waterways as well as electricity networks, clean water network, especially sewage and water treatment systems; 4). Promoting construction sector development and arrangement of cities and urban areas [...] by enhancing the development and enforcement of laws, regulations, technology and construction standards that ensure quality, safety, beauty, efficiency and smart city principles as well as strengthening the implementation of affordable housing program; 5). Further enhancing the beauty and services in cities and major urban areas through managing waste and sanitation — preparing pedestrian sidewalk, parking spaces, public parks; constructing rivers’ edge and dam; improving public order and lighting in the city; and enhancement of the quality and use of public transport in the city.”<sup>84</sup>

Insofar as a smart city is expected to distinguish itself from other cities by achieving higher environmental sustainability and life quality standards — and in response to aspirations reflected in consultations (see Chapters 4 & 5) — an opportunity arises for the to-be Sihanoukville smart city development plan to align with this RSP-IV vision.

To that effect, SSCWG may wish to review and harness the NSDP 2019-2023 implementation plans as follows. The Ministry of Land Management Urban Planning and Construction’s (MLMUPC) has been made responsible under the NSDP 2019-2023 for implementing prioritised policies regarding: “1) Land administration; 2) Land management and urbanisation; 3) Cambodia’s coastal area development and management; 4) Housing and social land concessions; 5) Construction development and management; 6) Development of laws and regulations”<sup>85</sup>.

The SSCWG may wish to seize that opportunity, synergise with the MLMUPC and:

- i. Ensure that “Approving physical plans of coastal areas” and “Approving land management plans”<sup>86</sup> have applied to Preah Sihanouk Province;
- ii. Ensure that “Approving land use master plans”<sup>87</sup> has applied to Sihanoukville Municipality/Districts/Khans while considering the findings and recommendations of the JICA supported National Integrated Strategy of the Coastal Area and Master Plan for Preah Sihanouk (2010);
- iii. Ensure that “Approving land use plan”<sup>88</sup> has applied to Sihanoukville’s Communes or Sangkats”; and
- iv. Ensure that “Promoting and approving the administrative boundary maps, infrastructure maps and current land use maps”<sup>89</sup> has applied to Sihanoukville Municipality, Districts and Khans.

In addition, SSCWG may wish to further synergise with the MLMUPC and:

- i. Monitor MLMUPC’s progress with “Launching the residential information and data management for the whole country”<sup>90</sup> and, once operable, ensure that the Sihanoukville

<sup>84</sup> Excerpts from English translation of RSP-IV, Rectangle 4. Inclusive and Sustainable Development, Side 3. Strengthening Urban Planning and Management

<sup>85</sup> Excerpt from English translation of NSDP 2019-2023, CHAPTER IV KEY POLICY PRIORITIES AND ACTIONS 2019-2023, SECTION 6. INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, sub-section 6.3 STRENGTHENING URBAN PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT, sub-section 4.187

<sup>86</sup> idem

<sup>87</sup> ibidem

<sup>88</sup> ibidem

<sup>89</sup> ibidem

<sup>90</sup> ibidem



smart city's residents are the first in Cambodia to benefit from it;

- ii. Monitor MLMUPC's progress with "Developing the map for the temporary construction sites and poor communities and housing loan information"<sup>91</sup> and, once available, ensure that Sihanoukville smart city's vulnerable people are the first in Cambodia to benefit from it;
- iii. Monitor MLMUPC's progress with "Promoting the construction of housing units for rent and sale to low and medium-income and vulnerable people in accordance with National Program for Development of Affordable Housing"<sup>92</sup> and, once available, ensure that Sihanoukville smart city's eligible residents are the first in Cambodia to benefit from it; and
- iv. Monitor MLMUPC's progress with implementing an "Incentives Policy and National Program for Affordable Housing Development"<sup>93</sup> and, once available, ensure that the Sihanoukville smart city is the first in Cambodia to benefit from it.

Moreover, SSCWG may wish to wish to further synergise with the MLMUPC and:

- i. Promote the Sihanoukville smart city as a champion for "Promoting constructions' permitting and conformance to avoid impacts on the beauty, safety, public order, environment and beaches of Cambodia"<sup>94</sup>;

- ii. Promote the Sihanoukville smart city as a pilot for "Launching public service on construction business e-registration and moving to provide more services"<sup>95</sup>;
- iii. Promote the Sihanoukville smart city as a pilot for "Introducing IT system for the management of property construction data by connecting to GIS e.g. Google Maps"<sup>96</sup>;
- iv. Turn the Sihanoukville smart city as a champion for "Promoting transparent dispute resolution in the construction sector"<sup>97</sup>;

- v. Participate, at least on a consultative basis, in the making of relevant laws and regulations as follows<sup>98</sup>:

- ▶ Laws — "(1) Law on Construction, (2) New Law on Land, (3) Law on Land Management and Urbanization, (4) Law on Housing, (5) Law on Cambodia's Coastal Area Management and Development".
- ▶ Policies and strategies — "National Policy on Public Private Partnership on Land, and National Strategy on Municipality and Urban Area Development".
- ▶ Royal Decrees, Sub-decrees and regulations — "[...] (3) Sub-decree on Cambodia's Coastal Area Management and Development, (4) Sub-decree on Professional Code of Conduct in Construction Sector, (5) Sub-decree on the Management of Tradespersons in Construction (for tradespersons whose professional boards have not been established yet), (6) Sub-decree on Licensing in Construction, [...] (8) Sub-decree on Building, Repairing and Demolition Permit, (9) Sub-decree on Conditions and Procedures of Construction Regulation, [...] (11) Sub-decree on Conditions and Procedures of the Complaints in Construction, (12) Sub-decree on the Organization and Functioning of the Commissions for Construction Dispute Resolution, (13) Sub-decree on the types and sizes of construction which require insurance for building or demolition, [...] and (15) other regulations supporting the land management, urbanization, construction and housings".

The following table highlights the linkages of this recommendation with global SDGs and Universal Periodic Review (UPR) recommendations which RGC has accepted.

91 ibidem

92 ibidem

93 ibidem

94 ibidem

95 ibidem

96 ibidem

97 ibidem

98 ibidem

<b>Sustainable Development Goals</b>	<p>SDG 11: “Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Target 11.3: Inclusive and sustainable urbanisation</li> <li>▶ Target 11.5: Reduce the adverse effects of natural disasters</li> <li>▶ Target 11.6: Reduce the environmental impacts of cities</li> <li>▶ Target 11.a: Strong national and regional development planning</li> <li>▶ Target 11.b: Implement policies for inclusion, resource efficiency and disaster risk reduction</li> </ul> <p>SDG 6: “Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Target 6.3: “By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally”</li> <li>▶ Target 6.6: “By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes”</li> <li>▶ Target 6.a: “By 2030, expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water- and sanitation-related activities and programmes, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies”</li> <li>▶ Target 6.b is: “Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management”</li> </ul>
<b>UPR Recommendations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ 110.20 Complete land reform to facilitate access to and use and development of land for individuals and small and medium-sized enterprises</li> <li>▶ 110.49 Strengthen the land policy approved in 2015, which established that gender equality and equity between men and women should be ensured in the land registration process</li> <li>▶ 110.21 &amp; 110.22 Implement a coherent resettlement policy and simplified process for granting communal land titles, including to indigenous peoples, consulting communities, civil society and indigenous groups</li> <li>▶ 110.23 &amp; 110.30 Ensure that all pending lands disputes, evictions and relocations are settled in a fair, transparent, negotiated and adequately compensated manner</li> <li>▶ 110.148 Protect the rights of peasants and other persons working in rural areas, including by ensuring that they are adequately compensated in cases of resettlement;</li> <li>▶ 110.131 Guarantee that the victims of the land grab are fairly heard and, where appropriate, receive fair compensation and non discriminatory access to justice</li> <li>▶ 110.149 Adopt measures to prevent the unlawful eviction of Cambodians from their lands, and use mechanisms based on accountability and transparency to settle land disputes in an equitable and expeditious fashion, as urged by the Human Rights Council in its resolution 36/32, adopted by consensus</li> <li>▶ 110.32 Effectively establish a working group on land conflicts under the aegis of the Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction, with the participation of civil society and the European Union</li> <li>▶ 110.150 Continue positive initiatives to facilitate the supply of clean water to poor citizens</li> </ul>

## E. Fifth recommendation — Achieve more effective climate change practices and preparedness.

As part of “Rectangle 4 – Inclusive and Sustainable Development”, the vision expressed in the RSP-IV mandates the RGC to focus on the following priorities during the sixth Legislature of the National Assembly, namely “Ensuring the environmental sustainability and pre-emptive response to the climate change” by: 1). Continuing to implement the “National Strategic Plan on Green Growth 2013-2030”, “Cambodia Climate Change Strategic Plan 2014-2023”, “National Environment Strategy and Action Plan 2016-2023”, “National REDD+ Strategy” and use social and environmental fund effectively to ensure economic development with low-carbon emission and resilience to climate change; 2). Further strengthening the management of protected areas, biodiversity conservation, natural resource conservation, especially the ecosystems of [...] coastline areas; 3). Further strengthening the management of solid waste, wastewater, gas and lethal substance by implementing principles of reduction, reuse, recycling and non-use as well as strengthening pollution monitoring and control mechanism and control; 4). Promoting resource efficiency and sustainability by implementing the principle of sustainable consumption and production; 5). Increasing the usage of environmental friendly and climate-friendly technologies in physical infrastructure and socio-economic development; 6). Continuing to promote the implementation of carbon trading mechanisms and related regulatory frameworks, strengthen the capabilities to develop and implement climate change adaptation and resiliency measures as well as explore the possibility of studying financial resiliency to respond to disasters caused by climate change; 7). Further promoting the development and implementation of integrated water resource management plan in order to expand water supply in response to demand, minimize the risks caused by flood and drought, as well as to ensure long-term water security; [...] and

9). Continuing to strengthen regulatory framework, research, as well as development of skill and capacity for [...] sub-national officials in terms of environment, green development, climate change, integrated water resource management, and the usage of natural

resources in a sustainable manner”<sup>99</sup>.

**Insofar as a smart city is expected to distinguish itself from other cities through more effective climate change practices and preparedness — and in response to aspirations reflected in consultations (see Chapters 4 & 5) — an opportunity arises for the to-be Sihanoukville smart city development plan to align with this RSP-IV vision.**

To that effect, SSCWG may wish to review and harness the NSDP 2019-2023 implementation plans as follows. The Ministry of Environment (MoE) and the National Council for Sustainable Development (NCSD) have been made responsible under the NSDP 2019-2023 for implementing prioritised policies regarding: “1) Green development, science and technology; 2) Responses to Climate Change; 3) Biodiversity and biosafety”<sup>100</sup>.

The SSCWG may wish to seize that opportunity, synergise with MoE and NCSD and:

- i. Monitor the progress with “Developing and starting the implementation of Green City Sustainable Strategic Plan”<sup>101</sup> and take ownership of the resulting Plan for the Sihanoukville smart city;
- ii. Monitor the progress with “Delegating functions and resources to SNAs to strengthen responsibility and ownership to ensure the sustainability of environmental and natural resources”<sup>102</sup> and build the capacity of Sihanoukville smart city’s SNAs accordingly;
- iii. Develop adequate Sihanoukville smart city policies for “Facilitating the progress toward building a low-carbon society and attracting private sector’s climate-smart investments”<sup>103</sup>;
- iv. Develop adequate Sihanoukville smart city policies for “Facilitating the progress toward building a low-carbon society”, “attracting private sector’s climate-smart investments”<sup>104</sup>; and
- v. Turning the Sihanoukville smart city into a pilot for “Developing/Implementing a policy framework for ecosystem services payment”<sup>105</sup>.

The following table highlights the linkages of this recommendation with global SDGs and Universal Periodic Review (UPR) recommendations which RGC has accepted.

<sup>99</sup> Excerpts from English translation of RSP-IV, Rectangle 4. Inclusive and Sustainable Development, Side 4. Ensuring the environmental sustainability and pre-emptive response to the climate change

<sup>100</sup> Excerpt from English translation of NSDP 2019-2023, CHAPTER IV KEY POLICY PRIORITIES AND ACTIONS 2019-2023, SECTION 6. INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, sub-section 6.4 ENSURING THE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND PRE-EMPTIVE RESPONSE TO THE CLIMATE CHANGE, sub-section 4.190

<sup>101</sup> idem

<sup>102</sup> ibidem

<sup>103</sup> ibidem

<sup>104</sup> ibidem

<sup>105</sup> ibidem

<b>Sustainable Development Goals</b>	<p>SDG 13: “Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Target 13.1: “Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate related hazards and natural disasters in all countries”</li> <li>▶ Target 13.2: “Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning”</li> <li>▶ Target 13.3: “Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning</li> </ul>
<b>UPR Recommendations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ 110.68 Continue to effectively address the special vulnerabilities, views and needs of women, children, persons with disabilities and local and marginalized communities when implementing its national strategic plans on disaster risk management, on health and on climate change</li> </ul>

## 6.3 Turning Sihanoukville into a New Source of Economic Growth — as Envisioned in the RSP-IV and Affirmed in the NSDP 2019-2023

### F. Sixth recommendation: Foster a business ecosystem that is conducive to entrepreneurship and economic diversification.

The vision expressed in the RSP-IV mandates the RGC to focus on the following priorities during the sixth Legislature of the National Assembly, namely the “Development of Key and New Source of Growth” by: “further implementing Cambodia’s Industrial Development Policy 2015-2025, especially transforming Sihanoukville Province into a multi-purpose Special Economic Zone (MPSEZ) along with the conduct of mid-term evaluation.”<sup>106</sup>

**Insofar as a smart city is expected to distinguish itself from other cities by fostering a business ecosystem that is conducive to entrepreneurship and economic diversification — and in response to aspirations reflected in consultations (see Chapters 4 & 5) — an opportunity arises for the to-be Sihanoukville smart city development plan to align with this RSP-IV vision.**

To that effect, SSCWG may voice its recommendations directly within the Inter-Ministerial Technical Committee for Land Management and Use Policy for the Development of Preah Sihanouk Province

into a Multi-Purpose Special Economic Zone (MPSEZ), as per Royal Government of Cambodia Sub decree No. 82. In particular, SSCWG may wish to emphasize strategies reconciling economic growth with innovation, sustainability and inclusiveness. In particular:

- Promoting linkages between local producers and service providers —especially SMEs— with regional/global value chains — a priority identified by the IDP 2015-2025;
- Promoting manufacturing ventures that specialise in creative or innovative activities, commercialise high value-added products, remain highly competitive and break into new markets — a priority identified by the IDP 2015-2025;
- Promoting agro-industrial development: “1) explore possibilities of establishing agro processing zones such as furniture manufacturing, rubber processing, seafood processing, food processing for domestic use and export through PPP; 2) Provide incentives to companies to locate in these areas; 3) Create a development and promotion fund for export led product development using agro-processing technology” — a policy measure identified under the IDP 2015-2025 for encouraging the expansion and modification of SMEs.

The following table highlights the linkages of this recommendation with global SDGs and Universal Periodic Review (UPR) recommendations which RGC has accepted.

<sup>106</sup> Excerpts from English translation of RSP-IV, Rectangle 2. Economic Diversification, Side 2. Development of Key and New Source of Growth

<b>Sustainable Development Goals</b>	<p>SDG 9: “Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Target 9.1: Develop sustainable, resilient and inclusive infrastructures</li> <li>▶ Target 9.2: Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization</li> <li>▶ Target 9.3: “Increase the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises, particularly in developing countries, to financial services including affordable credit and their integration into value chains and markets”</li> <li>▶ Target 9.5: “Enhance scientific research, upgrade the technological capabilities of industrial sectors in all countries, in particular developing countries, including, by 2030, encouraging innovation and substantially increasing the number of research and development workers per 1 million people and public and private research and development spending”</li> <li>▶ Target 9.a: “Facilitate sustainable and resilient infrastructure development in developing countries through enhanced financial, technological and technical support to African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and Small Island Developing States”</li> <li>▶ Target 9.b: “Support domestic technology development, research and innovation in developing countries, including by ensuring a conducive policy environment for, inter alia, industrial diversification and value addition to commodities”</li> <li>▶ Target 9.c: “Significantly increase access to information and communications technology and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries by 2020”</li> </ul>
<b>UPR Recommendations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ 110.151 &amp; 153 Amend the law on trade unions, in consultation with workers, labour advocates and other stakeholders, to bring it into full compliance with ILO Conventions Nos. 87 and 98 and that unions may register unhindered and represent their members</li> <li>▶ 110.152 As previously committed to by the Government following the State’s second review, simplify and reform registration procedures for unions and other civil society organizations</li> </ul>

### G. Seventh recommendation: Reclaim sustainability through improved food autonomy.

The vision expressed in the RSP-IV mandates the RGC to focus on the following priorities during the sixth Legislature of the National Assembly, namely the “Promotion of agriculture sector and rural development” by: “improving productivity, quality, and diversification through increasing investments in R&D for high value-added crops, livestock and aquaculture; strengthening farmer cooperative management; reducing costs and improving quality of agricultural inputs; developing financial products in support of agricultural production; promoting the use of digital and smart technology in agriculture; upgrading the processing industry through the promotion of private investment in agricultural products with high potential; and further promoting farming diversification aimed at

substituting imports.”<sup>107</sup>

**Insofar as a smart city is expected to distinguish itself from other cities by its degree of food autonomy — and in response to aspirations reflected in consultations (see Chapters 4 & 5) — an opportunity arises for the to-be Sihanoukville smart city development plan to align with this RSP-IV vision.**

To that effect, SSCWG may wish to review NSDP 2019-2023 implementation plans and harness opportunities for synergies with the CDC as follows:

- i. Monitor the progress of the CDC with “Reviewing the feasibility for establishing the agricultural processing areas and provide incentives to companies located in those areas”<sup>108</sup>, and promote Preah Sihanouk Province as a high priority beneficiary;

<sup>107</sup> Excerpt from English translation of NSDP 2019-2023, CHAPTER IV KEY POLICY PRIORITIES AND ACTIONS 2019-2023, SECTION 6. INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, sub-section 6.1 PROMOTION OF AGRICULTURE SECTOR AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT, sub-section 4.157

<sup>108</sup> Idem, sub-section 4.158



- ii. Co-organise business and investment forum to attract more investors in agro-processing industry;<sup>109</sup>
- iii. Participating in the review and discussion of incentive policies for companies investing in the agro-processing industry<sup>110</sup>;
- iv. Participating in formulating and developing strategies and master plans for agro-industrial processing areas<sup>111</sup>.

In addition, SSCWG may wish to review NSDP 2019-2023 implementation plans and harness opportunities for synergies with MoC as follows:

- i. Monitor the progress of MoC with “Continuing to implement the program of Accelerating Inclusive Markets for Smallholders”<sup>112</sup>, and promote Preah Sihanouk Province as a high priority beneficiary;
- ii. Monitor the progress of MoC with “Continuing to promote Cambodian agro-industry products toward substituting imports by local products and growing the foreign market access potential”<sup>113</sup>, and promote Preah Sihanouk Province as a high priority beneficiary;
- iii. Promote the Sihanoukville smart city as a pilot for “continuing to strengthen the stability price of rice in local market”;

Moreover, SSCWG may wish to review NSDP 2019-2023 implementation plans and harness opportunities for synergies with MAFF as follows:

- i. Monitor the progress of MAFF with

“Strengthening the capacity of registered agricultural and animal raising cooperatives through promoting the performance of appropriate technology, the practice of water-saving techniques and contract-farming, and promoting private sector investment in agricultural value chains at all levels”<sup>114</sup>, and promote Preah Sihanouk Province as a high priority beneficiary;

- ii. Propose a partnership approach between the Preah Sihanouk Province, the private sector and the agricultural cooperatives aiming to extend market opportunities for agricultural commodities that are given priority, particularly for small-scale producers<sup>115</sup>;
- iii. Monitor the progress of MAFF with “Promoting diversification of agricultural products with higher added value in the crops, livestock, aquaculture, and timber farming sub-sectors”<sup>116</sup>, and promote Preah Sihanouk Province as a high priority beneficiary; and
- iv. Monitor the progress of MAFF with “Strengthening the capacity of existing fishery communities in both freshwater and marine territories such as free of illegal fishing”<sup>117</sup>, and promote Preah Sihanouk Province as a high priority beneficiary.

The following table highlights the linkages of this recommendation with global SDGs and Universal Periodic Review (UPR) recommendations which RGC has accepted.

<b>Sustainable Development Goals</b>	<p>SDG 2: “End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Target 2.3: “By 2030 double the agricultural productivity and the incomes of small-scale food producers, particularly women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets, and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment”</li> <li>▶ Target 2.4: “By 2030 ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters, and that progressively improve land and soil quality”</li> </ul>
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<sup>109</sup> Ibidem

<sup>110</sup> Ibidem

<sup>111</sup> Ibidem

<sup>112</sup> Idem, sub-section 4.158

<sup>113</sup> Ibidem

<sup>114</sup> Ibidem

<sup>115</sup> Ibidem

<sup>116</sup> Ibidem

<sup>117</sup> Ibidem

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Target 2.a: “increase investment, including through enhanced international cooperation, in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services, technology development, and plant and livestock gene banks to enhance agricultural productive capacity in developing countries, in particular in the least developed countries”</li> <li>▶ Target 2.c is: “adopt measures to ensure the proper functioning of food commodity markets and their derivatives, and facilitate timely access to market information, including on food reserves, in order to help limit extreme food price volatility”</li> </ul> <p>SDG 9: “Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation “</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Target 9.1: Develop sustainable, resilient and inclusive infrastructures</li> <li>▶ Target 9.2: Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization</li> <li>▶ Target 9.a: “Facilitate sustainable and resilient infrastructure development in developing countries through enhanced financial, technological and technical support to African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and Small Island Developing States”</li> </ul>
<b>UPR Recommendations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ 110.63 Continue efforts to advance in the eradication of poverty, in particular in rural zones</li> <li>▶ 110.65 Further continue strengthening and expanding good cooperation with partners for the effective implementation of programmes aimed at rural development and poverty reduction</li> </ul>

## 6.4 Turning Sihanoukville into a champion of Enhancement of Public Health and Nutrition — as envisioned in the RSP-IV and affirmed in the NSDP 2019-2023

### H. Eighth recommendation: Provide residents with adequate healthcare services.

As part of “Rectangle 1. Human Resource Development”, the vision expressed in the RSP-IV mandates the RGC to focus on the following priorities during the sixth Legislature of the National Assembly: “1). Uplifting the quality, safety, and effectiveness of health services, especially the essential and emergency services through increasing investment in healthcare infrastructure and medical technology; 2). Putting in place quality accreditation system at healthcare establishments, improving the capacity to manage regulatory inspection at both public and

private health establishments; 3). Preparing and strengthening the enforcement of laws, regulations, and medical professional ethics especially the responsibility and changing the attitude of health service providers to comply with medical ethics; 4). Enhancing health research development including research on communicable and non-communicable diseases; and 5). Further strengthening systems for investigating, monitoring and responding to diseases in accordance with the international health regulatory requirements”.<sup>118</sup>

**Insofar as a smart city is expected to distinguish itself from other cities by providing residents with adequate healthcare services — and in response to aspirations reflected in consultations (see Chapters 4 & 5) — an opportunity arises for the to-be Sihanoukville smart city development plan to align with this RSP-IV vision.**

The Ministry of Health (MoH) has been made responsible under the NSDP 2019-2023 for implementing the prioritised strategies<sup>119</sup>.

The SSCWG may wish to seize that opportunity, synergise with MOH and:

<sup>118</sup> Excerpt from English translation of RSP-IV, Section 2.2.1. Acceleration of Governance Reform, paragraph 2) Strengthening of Cleanliness in the Public Administration

<sup>119</sup> Excerpt from English translation of NSDP 2019-2023, CHAPTER IV KEY POLICY PRIORITIES AND ACTIONS 2019-2023, SECTION 3. HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, sub-section 3.3 ENHANCEMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND NUTRITION, sub-section 4.75

- i. Monitor the progress of MOH with “Increasing coverage of and accessibility to quality, safe and effective health services and information for the population, especially vulnerable people and in hard-to-reach areas”<sup>120</sup> and promote the Sihanoukville smart city as a high priority beneficiary;
  - ii. Monitor the progress of MOH with “Encouraging behaviour change of providers in interaction with patients and consumers of health services and improve health care seeking of the population”<sup>121</sup> and promote the Sihanoukville smart city as a high priority beneficiary;
  - iii. Monitor the progress of MOH with “Strengthening and implementing innovative approaches for effective, efficient and sustained health service delivery with increased accountability for results”<sup>122</sup> and promote the Sihanoukville smart city as a high priority beneficiary; and
  - iv. Monitor the progress of MOH with “Improving institutional capacity on data management, especially at facilities and district level on data compilation, analysis, interpretation, reporting, dissemination and use.”<sup>123</sup> and promote the Sihanoukville smart city as a high priority beneficiary.
- The following table highlights the linkages of this recommendation with global SDGs and Universal Periodic Review (UPR) recommendations which RGC has accepted.

<b>Sustainable Development Goals</b>	<p>SDG 3: “ Good Health and Well-being”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Target 3.5: “Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol.”</li> <li>▶ Target 3.8: “Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all”</li> <li>▶ Target 3.9: “By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination”</li> <li>▶ Target 3.c: “Substantially increase health financing and the recruitment, development, training and retention of the health workforce in developing countries, especially in the least developed countries and small island developing states.”</li> </ul>
<b>UPR Recommendations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ 110.142 &amp; 110.143 Take further measures to narrow the development gap and improve access to education and health-care services, especially for people in rural areas, to ensure that no one is left behind</li> <li>▶ 110.154 Continue ongoing policies and programmes to ensure quality health care for all</li> <li>▶ 110.155 &amp; 110.157 Pursue the health strategic plan for 2016–2020 of the Ministry of Health of Cambodia in order to ensure that citizens obtain full-fledged health-care services in particular in rural areas</li> </ul>

<sup>120</sup> idem

<sup>121</sup> ibidem

<sup>122</sup> ibidem

<sup>123</sup> ibidem

## 6.5 Turning Sihanoukville into a champion of Food Security and Nutrition — as envisioned in the RSP-IV and affirmed in the NSDP 2019-2023

### I. Ninth recommendation: Provide all residents with adequate food security and nutrition.

The Council for Agricultural and Rural Development (CARD) has identified its priority actions for Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) according to the four dimensions of food security such as availability, access, utilisation, and stability<sup>124</sup> toward to achieve SDG by 2030 ‘leave no one behind’, especially the SDG2 ‘End hunger, achieve food security and improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture’.<sup>125</sup>

**Insofar as a smart city is expected to distinguish itself from other cities by providing residents with adequate food security and nutrition — and in response to aspirations reflected in consultations (see Chapters 4 & 5) — an opportunity arises for the to-be Sihanoukville smart city development plan to review and harness action plans under NSDP 2019-2023.**

The Ministry of Health (MoH) has been made responsible under the NSDP 2019-2023 for implementing the prioritised strategies<sup>126</sup>.

The SSCWG may wish to seize that opportunity, synergise with MOH and:

- i. Monitor the progress of MOH with “Increasing the coverage of nutritional supplements and pills by focusing attention in difficult areas”, and promote the Sihanoukville smart city as a high priority beneficiary;
- ii. Promote the Sihanoukville smart city as a high priority beneficiary for “Strengthening local and community-based integration services, including child growth monitoring and nutrition counselling”; and
- iii. Promote the Sihanoukville smart city as a high priority beneficiary for “Strengthening the management of severe malnutrition in the hospital”.

The Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training (MLVT) and the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation (MSAVYR) have been made responsible under the NSDP 2019-2023 for implementing the prioritised strategies<sup>127</sup>.

The SSCWG may wish to synergise with MLVT and MSAVYR, monitor the progress with “Promoting the global health coverage in Cambodia, increasing the coverage of health equity funds, continuing to implement the Social Security Fund for the public officials, former civil servants, veterans, and health care for workers and developing health care for self-employed individuals”, and promote the Sihanoukville smart city as a high priority beneficiary.

The following table highlights the linkages of this recommendation with global SDGs and Universal Periodic Review (UPR) recommendations which RGC has accepted.

<b>Sustainable Development Goals</b>	<p>SDG 2: “End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Target 2.1: “By 2030 end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round”</li> <li>▶ Target 2.2: “By 2030 end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving by 2025 the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under five years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women, and older persons”</li> </ul>
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<sup>124</sup> This recommendation focuses primarily on the health angle related to food security and nutrition. Other CARD’s priorities are addressed in different sections of this chapter. Regarding availability and access, see the 6th and 7th recommendations in Section 6.3. Regarding stability, see the 7th recommendation in Section 6.3.

<sup>125</sup> Excerpt from English translation of NSDP 2019-2023, CHAPTER IV KEY POLICY PRIORITIES AND ACTIONS 2019-2023, SECTION 3. HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, sub-section 3.3 ENHANCEMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND NUTRITION, sub-section 4.79

<sup>126</sup> Excerpt from English translation of NSDP 2019-2023, CHAPTER IV KEY POLICY PRIORITIES AND ACTIONS 2019-2023, SECTION 3. HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, sub-section 3.3 ENHANCEMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND NUTRITION, sub-section 4.75

<sup>127</sup> Excerpt from English translation of NSDP 2019-2023, CHAPTER IV KEY POLICY PRIORITIES AND ACTIONS 2019-2023, SECTION 3. HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, sub-section 3.3 ENHANCEMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND NUTRITION, sub-section 4.82

	<p>SDG 6: “Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Target 6.1: “By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all”</li> <li>▶ Target 6.3: “By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally”</li> </ul>
<b>UPR Recommendations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ 110.63 Continue efforts to advance in the eradication of poverty, in particular in rural zones</li> <li>▶ 110.65 Further continue strengthening and expanding good cooperation with partners for the effective implementation of programmes aimed at rural development and poverty reduction</li> </ul>

## 6.6 Turning Sihanoukville into a champion of Security and Safety — as envisioned in the RSP-IV and affirmed in the NSDP 2019-2023

### J. Tenth recommendation: Provide all residents with improved safety and security.

The vision expressed in the RSP-IV mandates the RGC to focus on the following priorities during the sixth Legislature of the National Assembly: “(2) Reinforcing the rule of law, democracy, peace culture, social morality, respect for human rights and dignity and ensuring a conducive environment for the normal functioning of public institutions; [...] (4) Undertaking preventive measures and other actions to suppress all kinds of criminal activities, including terrorism and its financing, money laundering, illegal drug trafficking and drug use, human trafficking and sexual exploitation, and other transnational crimes, as well as continuing carrying out the “Safe Village/ Commune” policy; (5) [...] Improving traffic safety and enforcing transport safety regulations so as to penalize non-roadworthiness trucks that damage road infrastructure and cause traffic accidents; [...] and (7) Building the capacity of law enforcement to deal with cybercrimes.”<sup>128</sup>

**Insofar as a smart city is expected to distinguish itself from other cities by providing residents with**

**improved safety and security — and in response to aspirations reflected in consultations (see Chapters 4 & 5) — an opportunity arises for the to-be Sihanoukville smart city development plan to align with this RSP-IV vision.**

The MOI has been made responsible under the NSDP 2019-2023 for implementing the prioritised strategies<sup>129</sup>.

The SSCWG may wish to seize that opportunity, synergise with MOI and:

- Monitor the progress of MOI with “Strengthening the measures to prevent and suppress crimes by continuing to prevent and crack down on all kinds of crimes and to continue to enforce laws, to raise awareness and provide professional training to officials at the Police Academy and continue to build capacity to prevent crimes by technology system”<sup>130</sup>, and promote the Sihanoukville smart city as a pilot for making use of that technology system;
- Monitor the progress of MOI with “Continuing to prevent and crack down on all types of criminal offenses, including combating terrorism and terrorist financing, anti-money laundering, fighting illegal activities related to drug trafficking and drug use, fighting illegal activities related to human trafficking and sexual businesses”<sup>131</sup>, and promote the Sihanoukville smart city as a high priority beneficiary; and
- Monitor the progress of MOI with “Continuing to

<sup>128</sup> Excerpt from English translation of RSP-IV, Section 2.2.2. Overarching Environment for Implementing the Strategy, 1) Peace, Political, and Public Order

<sup>129</sup> Excerpt from English translation of NSDP 2019-2023, CHAPTER IV KEY POLICY PRIORITIES AND ACTIONS 2019-2023, SECTION 2. OVERARCHING ENVIRONMENT FOR IMPLEMENTING THE STRATEGY, sub-section 2.1 PEACE, POLITICAL STABILITY, AND PUBLIC ORDER, sub-section 4.32

<sup>130</sup> idem

<sup>131</sup> Idem, sub-section 4.33



strengthen law enforcement and dissemination activities in all aspects by continuing to promote education, advising people to participate in preserving public order, respecting Road Traffic Law, respecting law enforcement, and enhancing professional skills for police officers and the traffic police; continuing to raise awareness on Water and Road Traffic Laws and explain to citizens of conscience to law enforcement”<sup>132</sup>, and promote the Sihanoukville smart city as a high priority beneficiary.

In addition, the National Authority for Combating Drugs (NACD) will continue to efficiently implement the five strategy plans of the 3-Year National Plan on Drug Control covering: (1) Drugs demand reduction; (2) Drugs supply; (3) Strengthening the effectiveness of treatment, rehabilitation and social Reintegration of drug addicts; (4) Strengthening the effectiveness of the Law enforcement; (5) Strengthening and

Expansion the international cooperation.<sup>133</sup>

The SSCWG may wish to seize that opportunity, liaise with NACD, review all action plans and identify potential areas of synergy. In particular:

- i. Promote the Sihanoukville smart city as a high priority beneficiary for “Increasing public awareness of the harmful effects and the impact of illicit drugs upon society”<sup>134</sup>;
- ii. Promote the Sihanoukville smart city as a high priority beneficiary for “Increasing the capacities of drug treatment, rehabilitation centres”<sup>135</sup>; and
- iii. “Strengthening the structure of the NACD within national and sub-national level”<sup>136</sup>.

The following table highlights the linkages of this recommendation with global SDGs and Universal Periodic Review (UPR) recommendations which RGC has accepted.

<b>Sustainable Development Goals</b>	<p>SSDG 3: “ Good Health and Well-being”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Target 3.6 is: “By 2020, halve (50% less) the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents”</li> </ul> <p>SDG 5: “Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Target 5.2: “ Eliminate all forms of violence against all females in the public and private spheres including trafficking, sexual and other types of exploitation”</li> </ul> <p>SDG 8: “Foster sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Target 8.8: “Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment”</li> </ul> <p>SDG 11: “ Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Target 11.1: “By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums”</li> <li>▶ Target 11.5: “By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations”</li> <li>▶ Target 11.c: “Support least developed countries, including through financial and technical assistance, in building sustainable and resilient buildings using local materials”</li> </ul> <p>SDG 16: “Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Target 16.1: “Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere”</li> </ul>
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<sup>132</sup> Idem

<sup>133</sup> Idem, sub-section 4.34

<sup>134</sup> Idem

<sup>135</sup> Ibidem

<sup>136</sup> Ibidem

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Target 16.2: “End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children”</li> <li>▶ Target 16.4: “By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime”</li> <li>▶ Target 16.5: “Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms”</li> </ul>
<b>UPR Recommendations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ 110.72 &amp; 110.73 Continue to effectively implement the law on the suppression of trafficking in persons and sexual exploitation; Fortify efforts to effectively implement the law on the suppression of trafficking in persons and sexual exploitation to better prevent and address human trafficking</li> <li>▶ 110.191 Legally prohibit the child sex trade in the context of the new national action plan for the elimination of illegal trafficking and smuggling in human beings, the exploitation of workers and sexual exploitation</li> <li>▶ 110.185 Reform national legislation with a view to strengthening the protection of women and children against domestic violence</li> <li>▶ 110.156 Adopt a public health and human rights approach to the world drug problem, including the decriminalization of drug consumption and the provision of harm reduction services</li> <li>▶ 110.184 Conduct comprehensive investigations of cases of domestic and sexual violence, and ensure that perpetrators are prosecuted and victims are adequately compensated</li> <li>▶ 110.189 Take all adequate measures to protect children from sexual exploitation, in particular in the context of “orphanage tourism”, including by strengthening the regulatory framework and awareness-raising measures and by ensuring that all allegations are investigated, victims obtain redress and perpetrators are sanctioned</li> </ul>

## 7 Conclusions

Based on a people-centred, context-specific and comprehensive survey, a human security assessment has been conducted. A variety of insecurities have been uncovered which are likely to be amplified in case future strategic plans to develop Sihanoukville choose to perpetuate the status quo; that is, if the developmental paradigm currently in place is only altered through mere variations of scale. Those issues span all seven dimensions of human security concerns: economic security, food security, health security, environmental security, personal security, community security, and trust in institutions.

The elaboration of a smart city model for Sihanoukville ought to be regarded as an unprecedented opportunity to rethink the very foundations of the concept of a “smart” city on all levels, overcome known issues, and help induce a positive transformation.

The recommendations conveyed in this report have suggested developmental avenues reconciling the Sihanoukville city’s own development goals, Cambodia’s Sustainable Development Goals, United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals, along with a triad of universal human aspirations promoted by the United Nations’ Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights, namely: freedom from fear, freedom from want, and freedom to live in dignity.

The concept of “smart” city is often associated with a city that is digitally enabled. Enhancing the digital transformation in a city is important; but it should stay a means to an end, rather than an end in itself in achieving a “smart” city. A city is smart because it has included, engaged and empowered its residents in improving city design and services. A city is smart because it functions through active and accountable engagement. A city is smart because it is operated with a view to the long-term carrying capacity of the environment. A city is smart because local entrepreneurs are supported in contributing to a thriving local economy that builds security for businesses and workers alike.<sup>137</sup>

Understandably, a long journey potentially lies ahead for formulating the policies underlying a to-be developmental model for Sihanoukville, implementing those, and then further moving into a monitoring and evaluation phase. The recommendations conveyed in this report aim to help start that journey. For the sake of simplicity, strategic recommendations and programmatic suggestions presented in Chapter 6 have been articulated along ten characteristics which, in isolation or in combination, aim to establish the very essence of “smartness” while combined with sustainability and inclusiveness.

Those are:

- A. Reinforce a higher autonomy of decision-making at the local level and a higher degree of participation of residents in the local policymaking process.**
- B. Enhance citizen-government dialogue, including through adequate digital participation platforms and effective grievance/redress mechanisms.**
- C. Reinforce awareness about laws, rights, and obligations set in the laws.**
- D. Achieve higher environmental sustainability and life quality standards.**
- E. Achieve more effective climate change practices and preparedness.**
- F. Foster a business ecosystem that is conducive to entrepreneurship and economic diversification.**
- G. Reclaim sustainability through improved food autonomy.**
- H. Provide residents with adequate healthcare services.**
- I. Provide all residents with adequate food security and nutrition.**
- J. Provide all residents with improved safety and security.**

Such strategic recommendations and programmatic suggestions now await further elaboration and refinement.

<sup>137</sup> “Linking the smart city project to the SDGs is not enough, the simple fact is that NO city can be considered ‘smart’ if it ignores the interests of poor, marginalized, and vulnerable groups and communities. This smart city needs to be the result of a series of consultations with experts, civil society organizations, social movements, and people’s representatives to ensure that the project is comprehensive and holistic.” — Excerpt of the keynote address by United Nations Resident Coordinator to Cambodia, Ms. Pauline Tamesis, at the Smart City Working Group Meeting, on 23rd February 2021. <https://cambodia.un.org/en/113255-smart-city-working-group-meeting>

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