



**United Nations Trust Fund
for Human Security**

Cambodia

Cities for All: Inclusive, Smart, and Sustainable Urban Development in Cambodia

Background information

Over the last decade, the rapid pace of urbanization in Cambodia has led to challenges in public services management and delivery, including waste and sanitation, water treatment, and transportation. The growing population contributes to new construction for housing and infrastructure, in some cases displacing vulnerable urban communities from the city centers to the outskirts where housing and employment opportunities are more limited. The COVID-19 pandemic compounded these challenges and increased inequalities, particularly those related to the expansion of digital platforms for product delivery and banking that are less accessible to vulnerable communities due to telecommunication infrastructure limitations. Building on the successful UNTFHS initiative “Sihanoukville for All”, implemented by United Nations agencies in partnership with the Royal Government of Cambodia, this programme will further expand the capacity and technical know-how of diverse stakeholders to promote a people-centered urban development that leaves no one behind.

Goals and objectives

The main objective of the programme is to support the Royal Government of Cambodia in building more innovative, inclusive, and sustainable cities in the country using the human security approach. The key objectives of the programme are to: (i) support the government in developing a national roadmap on smart and sustainable cities, towards the development of a National Policy Framework by 2025; (ii) build capacities of national and sub-national government authorities to mainstream the human security approach in urban development; and (iii) implement the developed roadmap through integrated partnerships.



DURATION

March 2023 — July 2024



UN IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES
UNOPS, UN-Habitat



OTHER KEY PARTNERS

The General Department of Administration of the Ministry of Interior, Inter-ministerial representatives of the Smart Cities Steering Committee, local authorities of the selected Municipalities/Provinces, civil society, private sector, academia, and affected communities.

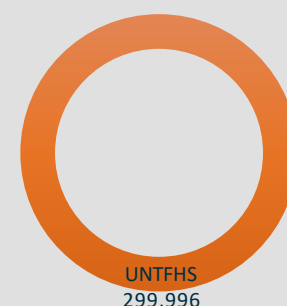


BENEFICIARIES
6,000,000



TOTAL BUDGET
US\$ 299,996

POOLING OF RESOURCES



Beneficiaries

The programme integrates and builds the capacities of the Ministry of Interior officials, inter-ministerial representatives of the Smart Cities Steering Committee, local authorities of selected municipalities and provinces, civil society, the private sector, academia, and affected communities. By promoting sustainable, inclusive, and smart urban solutions, the programme benefits 6 million Cambodians living in urban areas of the country.

Applying the Human Security approach

Realizing “smart” and sustainable cities is a whole-of-society effort requiring the meaningful participation of local and national actors, and the private sector. By providing technical expertise on smart cities and human security, the programme trains public administrations at the national and sub-national levels to monitor and evaluate the needs and vulnerabilities of communities to shape urban policy and planning. Through a highly consultative process with ministries, the private sector, civil society organizations, community representatives, and youth, the programme incentivizes public-private partnerships and builds a genuinely integrated process for collecting data to inform the development and implementation of the National Smart and Sustainable Cities Roadmap led by the Cambodia Government.

A crucial component of achieving sustainable cities is prioritizing those furthest behind and ensuring that all people residing in urban areas benefit from development progress. To this end, the programme undertakes a comprehensive assessment of urban challenges to develop tailored solutions for the most disadvantaged groups. Small group discussions and consultations with women, youth, people with disabilities, residents in low-income communities and those evicted due to urban development ensure that implementation of the roadmap results in reduced inequalities and expanded opportunities. In particular, activities are geared toward overcoming the digital divide and enabling all communities to benefit from the ongoing digital transformation in the country. This is done by expanding opportunities for education and employment in the technology sector and creating youth ambassadors of the digital transformation.

By bringing together citizens and public authorities, national and local actor, as well as private sector and civil society actors, the programme helps carve a new trajectory of urban development in Cambodia, emphasizing that no city can be truly considered smart if it ignores the interests and rights of the most vulnerable—the core of the human security approach.



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