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FY 2009 FOREIGN ASSISTANCE GOALS

Cambodia has been transformed in remarkable ways, and U.S. assistance continues to make significant contributions to the country's ongoing development. The country is at peace after decades of conflict; strong economic growth since 1999 has lifted many Cambodians out of poverty; and the relationship between Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) and the United States Government (USG) has never been better. Despite a global economic downturn, poor record of governance and accountability, and a weak health system, a majority of Cambodians believe that their country is on the right path, and are optimistic about the future. U.S. assistance programs made considerable progress in strengthening the professionalism and accountability of security forces, building political will to improve governance and fight corruption, improving the health and education of the Cambodian people, and sustaining private sector-led growth. However, much of this progress remains fragile. Fundamental improvements in governance are still needed to secure Cambodia's democratic transition and a better future for the Cambodian people.

HIGHLIGHTS BY PROGRAM OBJECTIVE

Investing in People

Cambodia's health indicators are among the lowest in Asia. The country's health sector is fragmented and highly dependent on international donors, while its maternal mortality rate – 461 per 100,000 live births, one of the highest in Southeast Asia – has not changed in 15 years. U.S. assistance is improving the health of Cambodians through a combination of public and private approaches that stresses improved access and quality of care. As the largest bilateral HIV/AIDS donor in Cambodia, the United States has helped the country cut its HIV/AIDS prevalence rate among the general population by half, and among brothel-based sex workers by two-thirds – one of the few success stories in the global fight against the disease. In the education sector, the United States is increasing access to basic education for vulnerable populations, including the poor, minorities, and girls. In FY 2009, the United States:

- Worked with the RGC to provide life-saving antiretroviral medication to 31,018 Cambodians living with HIV/AIDS, or over 90 percent of those in need. More than two-thirds of the country's estimated HIV-infected population know their HIV status and are enrolled in care; in many developing countries, that percentage is less than half.

- Increased the number of deliveries by skilled birth attendants by fueling demand and promoting referral in combination with midwife incentives. As a result, trained health professionals provided antenatal care to 601,587 people and delivered 89,795 babies.

- Improved child survival in Cambodia by increasing access to high-quality care for critical child illnesses. U.S. programs successfully treated 205,482 children for diarrhea – a major killer of children in Cambodia and around the world – and provided essential care to 76,196 newborns. In addition, 29,500 health-center staff members and community workers received child health and nutrition training, while 621,084 children below 5 years of age received vitamin A supplementation, which studies show reduces the risk of morbidity in children by about 25 percent.

- Supported family planning and reproductive-health services in an area covering 35 percent of population. U.S.-funded family-planning messages reached 4,765,345 people – one-third of the population – through mass media campaigns and mobile video shows, while 602,566 people received family-planning messages from trained community volunteers and service providers. U.S. assistance also increased access to affordable contraceptives and sought to involve more men in family planning.

- Helped detect and cure over 4,900 tuberculosis (TB) cases – a 92 percent treatment success rate. U.S. assistance improved the quality and capacity of one-third of the country's private pharmacies and drug sellers, which are often on the front lines of diagnosing and treating TB in Cambodia. In addition, the United States helped train nearly 6,000 health center staff members, private providers, and volunteers in detecting, diagnosing, and treating TB. Cambodia ranks 22nd among the world's highest-burden TB countries, according to the World Health Organization.

- Reduced dropout rates in nearly 60 percent of U.S.-supported schools. In addition, U.S. assistance provided scholarships to 5,000 primary and lower-secondary school students in need.

- Built 10 school-based "green computer labs" that operate on solar energy. The Ministry of Education considers the labs a model for other secondary schools in power-starved Cambodia, where 88 percent of the population does not have access to electricity.

Economic Growth

Cambodia experienced a decade of steady growth until the recent global downturn, although the economy remains fragile and undiversified. The country ranks 110th out of 133 in the World Economic Forum's Global Competitive Index 2009-2010, and 35 percent of the population earns less than a dollar a day. U.S. assistance is alleviating poverty in rural areas by helping to improve the sales of small businesses in some of the poorest provinces. The United States seeks to empower women, who account for over half of the country's economic production and play a dominant role in the rural economy, but are not represented at the highest levels of decision making throughout

the economy. In addition, U.S. assistance is protecting areas of environmental and biological significance. In FY 2009, the United States:

- Improved economic opportunities for over 3,300 family enterprises. Resulting productivity improvements and sales increases allowed these families to send their children to school, pay for much-needed health care, and expand their businesses. These enterprises also formed private business associations, which utilized public-private dialogues with the Government to advocate successfully for regulatory reforms.

- Helped over 30 garment factories improve their management practices, resulting in productivity savings and enhanced international competitiveness. The United States also provided training to workers – 92 percent of them women – that helped some advance into higher-paying management positions formerly held by expatriates.

- Collaborated with provincial governments to promote economic growth in 12 provinces. U.S.-funded investment profiles – glossy promotional brochures touting economic opportunities in each of the 12 provinces – stimulated investment and created jobs in rural Cambodia.

- Advised the RGC in drafting a new Trade Remedy Law, which protects domestic business interests and brings the country into compliance with World Trade Organization standards

- Helped participating pig farmers increase their profit margins by 40 percent. By funding cross-provincial exposure trips and technical training, the United States showed the pig farmers how to produce their own animal feed and lower their production costs. In addition, the United States helped Cambodian entrepreneurs establish nine domestic animal feed production facilities in six provinces, which further increased profit margins for pig farmers.

- Protected over 220,000 hectares of natural resources, including Prey Lang Forest, the largest lowland dry evergreen forest remaining in Southeast Asia. U.S. assistance provided training to over 1,000 people on natural-resource management and biodiversity conservation, in addition to promoting the development of environmentally sustainable livelihoods.

Governing Justly and Democratically

The United States works with civil society organizations and government reformers to combat corruption, improve the legal system, and strengthen human rights. While Cambodia has made progress on reforming the legal system, the country still lacks a well-trained, professionally-run judiciary. Parliamentary elections in the summer of 2008 were freer than any previously held in Cambodia, but power remains concentrated in the executive branch, and opposition parties are disorganized and divided. U.S. short-term goals are to keep political space open by supporting civil-society groups advocating for political and legal rights – especially land rights – while remaining engaged in the long-term reform process. In FY 2009, the United States:

- Funded over 20 Cambodian-run non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working in human rights, legal aid, and grassroots advocacy. In an exceptionally organized and bold demonstration of public discontent with land abuses, nine Cambodian communities with a combined population of 12,000 families filed a coordinated complaint with the Government that disputed land concessions of nearly 500,000 hectares in five provinces. One U.S.-funded NGO developed an open database for sharing human-rights information with other

organizations; the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Council used information from this database in its Universal Periodic Review of human rights in April 2009.

- Held youth democracy festivals that attracted 187,244 young people in 8 provinces throughout the country. The festivals promoted political activism, voter registration, and involvement in local government. The final festival, held in rural Kampong Cham Province, attracted 69,000 young people over 2 days.

- Expanded its local governance program to 22 percent of the country's commune councils, a 30 percent increase over FY 2008. The program is helping government officials to adopt democratic practices and become more responsive to the needs of their communities. It is also educating the public about the rights and responsibilities of citizens in a democratic system.

- Continued funding the Documentation Center of Cambodia, which has provided more than 40,000 pages of evidence to the ongoing Khmer Rouge tribunal. The UN-backed court is trying senior regime leaders for alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity committed during the Khmer Rouge period.

- Helped the Ministry of Justice install an intranet system that for the first time has electronically connected all ministry departments, allowing staff to document and share case information efficiently, and communicate by email.

- Funded 10 constituency dialogues – town hall-style meetings that allow citizens to raise their concerns with members of national and local government – in 10 provinces. The dialogues brought together one-fifth of all members of the National Assembly, 4,870 citizens, and 320 local government officials, and were broadcast to an audience of thousands on national radio.

Peace and Security

Cambodia's three decades of war and civil unrest resulted in weak government institutions and ill-prepared security forces. Security force reform and professionalization are key elements in addressing governance and corruption within Cambodia, and integral to increasing capacities to deter and prevent national and transnational security threats. Cambodia also faces broad challenges in securing its maritime and ground borders, ensuring territorial integrity, and maintaining internal stability. Porous maritime and land borders provide an avenue for transnational crime, including drug smuggling and manufacture, trafficking in persons, illicit natural resources, and cultural objects; and are vulnerable to exploitation by violent extremist organizations. Landmines and unexploded ordnance continue to inflict civilian casualties and litter otherwise economically viable areas. The United States is working with the Cambodian military to promote reform, transparency, and professionalism of its security forces; bolster the country's counterterrorism efforts; and help Cambodia become free of landmines and unexploded ordnance by 2020. U.S. programs are also assisting the RGC in combating trafficking in persons. In FY 2009, the United States:

- Partnered with the Cambodian military to conduct structural reforms in defense strategic policy, maritime security, transportation and logistics management, peacekeeping, and civil-military operations. These activities enhanced the Cambodian military's ability to secure its porous borders, combat terrorism and its underlying causes, and provide aid to civil society.

- Supported the Cambodian military's participation in five major exercises and deployments: two U.S.-led Global Operations Peace Initiative (GPOI) exercises in Indonesia and Mongolia, a rotation of demining troops to the Sudan, a deployment of movement-control troops to Chad and the Central African Republic, and a bilateral GPOI exercise with the United States in Cambodia

- Cleared landmines and unexploded ordnance from over 9 million square meters of land and returned it to productive use. U.S. programs helped reduce the number of civilian deaths and injuries from landmines and unexploded ordnance from 231 in the first 9 months of FY 2008 to 199 in the same period in FY 2009, in part by educating tens of thousands of vulnerable Cambodians about the dangers of mines and unexploded ordnance.

- Assisted the RGC in adopting the National Minimum Standards for the Protection of Victims of Trafficking, key regulations that are improving the quality of after-care services provided to victims of human trafficking. The United States worked closely with the Royal Academy for Judicial Professionals to institutionalize a training curriculum on the anti-trafficking law for new and sitting judges. As part of trafficking prevention, U.S. programs provided funding for vocational training and scholarships for at-risk youth, and supported income-generating activities for their parents. In addition, the United States helped establish provincial-level command units to coordinate responses to trafficking in two provincial hot spots.