

October 24, 2012

**Comments from the United Kingdom on the Approval by Mail: Cambodia:
Enhancement of Flood and Drought Management in Pursat Province (ADB)**

Dear Patricia

The UK welcomes the project under Cambodia's SPCR entitled *Enhancement of Flood and Drought Management in Pursat Province*, submitted by the Government of Cambodia and the Asian Development Bank. We are happy to approve the project, subject to the following comments being taken into consideration:

- **Output 1:** is there a mechanism in place for cooperation between Cambodia and neighbouring countries (Lao PDR and Vietnam), to share knowledge of flood and/or drought management? The project is likely to depend considerably on the Mekong River Commission in this area and it will be important to ensure direct coordination and communication between the Cambodian authorities and those of other countries.
- **Output 4:** it is important to strengthen capacity of the Executing and Implementing Agencies to undertake the project effectively. However, is there any mechanism to incorporate or apply knowledge and skill from this project management into national government systems? It is also important to improve the government's capacity to implement the project sustainably and is essential that knowledge application is taken into account here.
- **Expected key result "reduced economic and human losses from floods and droughts":** is there enough reliable data on current economic losses due to floods and droughts to measure the three indicators stipulated in project document?
- **Expected key result "enhanced capacity of communities to manage flood and/or drought events":** project documents do not discuss the roles and involvement of local authorities (community councils, heads of villages, village development committees, etc.). The document states that "disaster risk management plans" are expected to be developed, and the involvement of local authorities in the project is of paramount importance, both during and after implementation. Local authorities play a crucial role in facilitating usage and management of infrastructure and resolving conflicts among beneficiaries. How will stakeholders be involved in this area?
- **Results** included in project summaries should reflect the PPCR funds and not the totality of all investment in the projects.
- **"Design and Monitoring Framework":** it would be useful to have an explanation of underlying assumptions, for example: Assumption - O&M budgets sufficient to maintain infrastructure – what is the basis for this assumption?

- **Monitoring and evaluation:** this could be strengthened. Would it be cost-effective for an external M&E team be tasked to conduct evaluation of project to ensure effective project implementation and sustainability of infrastructure?
- A mechanism is needed to ensure sustainable and effective **Farmer Water User Committees** (FWUC) after project completion, and to strengthen the capacity of and raise awareness of FWUCs to ensure project sustainability / sustainability of infrastructure. Increased local authority engagement here would facilitate this.
- **Gender:** we will welcome regular reporting on progress with ensuring minimum levels of female participation in the programme as identified in the PAM
- **Governance & anti-corruption:** we will welcome regular reporting on the governance aspects identified, including application of the ADB's Anti-Corruption Policy, and periodic inspection of contractors' fund withdrawals and settlements. We will also expect regular reporting on how the implementation arrangements are ensuring, in practice, the quality of construction work under the programme to the required climate resilient standards.

Many thanks

Jane

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