

September 15, 2015

Approval by mail: Cambodia: Climate Resilient Rural Infrastructure in Kampong Cham Province (as part of the Cambodia: Rural Roads Improvement Project II) (PPCR) (ADB) – Comments from UK

Dear Mafalda,

Thank you for the detailed proposal put forward by ADB. We appreciate the time that has been spent in developing this submission, and the details of research on which infrastructure reformation plans have been based. We would be grateful for clarification on a few queries before we are able to approve.

- It is very positive to see that the programme will focus on building institutional capacity to integrate climate resilience into planning. We would like to hear more detail about the work streams that will be used for capacity-building within the MRD and other institutions using the \$2 million grant funding from the PPCR, to find out more the current strategy for this element of the PPCR spend.
- The programme developers have been forward-thinking in suggesting other nations who could benefit from these infrastructure improvement models, but it is not clear whether any particular fora or mechanisms will be used to share the learning from their experiences?
- We are aware of resettlement problems that have been experienced in other infrastructure programmes within Cambodia. We note that the evaluation document for the ADB's Primary Roads Restoration project for example indicated a number of lessons to be learned on this subject, including the need to update the resettlement plan after a measurement survey, to monitor resettlement more closely and ensure timely reporting, to establish systematic data collection requirements, and to supervise resettlement more effectively. The PPER concluded that compensation paid to those resettled was not always aligned with the resettlement action plan which had been agreed upon, and that there appeared to have been insufficient public consultation and participation in the resettlement process.

The current proposal suggests that while resettlement is not anticipated, it is still a risk (perhaps one which could be included in the risks and countermeasures list for the project?) It is evident that the ADB has considered the need to monitor these risks, through the references to resettlement issues throughout the roles and responsibilities of those implementing the programme. However, given that a resettlement action plan was put in place and apparently not complied with by all parties during the earlier programme, and that consultants did not meet expectations on resettlement-related responsibilities, we would like reassurance that the ADB will be ensuring similar problems are not faced as part of this rural road improvement project, and that all lessons from the previous programme are being incorporated (including the need to base resettlement plans on up-to-date data).

We look forward to hearing further details, and thank ADB in advance.

Kind regards,
Emma Dougan
DFID, United Kingdom