



## Background

Cambodia has the **4th largest youth population** in the South-East Asia region. 70% of youth aged 15-29 were economically active in 2019. To achieve long-term development goals, **Cambodia needs to create decent work for 160,000 young women and men** who enter the job market each year.

**However, Cambodia's youth face many challenges in the labour market including:**

- 1). **Limited access** to education and skill training,
- 2). **Low quality** and vulnerable employment,
- 3). **Limited opportunities** and support for entrepreneurship, and
- 4). **Risk of exploitation** and abuse for youth who migrate for work.

Continuing from the successful implementation of the phase I and financial support of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and continuous financial contributions from other donors, the “Decent Employment for Youth in Cambodia” programme phase II (“DEY II”), was **designed to address challenges of youth employment in Cambodia and prepare them for the future of work**. DEY II is jointly implemented by four UN agencies, including ILO (the administrative and convening agency), UNESCO, UNICEF and UNIDO with a close partnership with the Royal Government of Cambodia.

**Goal** 

**Young women and men in Cambodia increasingly obtain decent and productive employment opportunities.**

By 2023, the programme will **assist 3,000 young women and men** to obtain employment / self-employment. Among them, 1,000 will be in formal employment and 200 in formal self-employment, with decent monthly earnings. In total, **170,900 youths will benefit** directly or indirectly from project activities linked to decent employment.

## Outcome 1: SKILLS & COMPETENCIES



Young women and men in Cambodia have demand-driven skills and competencies which are relevant to current and future labour market needs.

### What we do

- 1) Enhance quality of **national TVET system**.
- 2) Increase **private sector engagement** in TVET design and delivery.
- 3) Increase availability of training in life, **soft, green, and digital literacy skills**.
- 4) Strengthen the capacities of national institutions **to green and digitalize the TVET system** at both policy and operational levels.

## Outcome 2: ENTREPRENEURSHIP



Young women and men have adequate entrepreneurial capacity and increasingly access business development services.

### What we do

- 1) Improve the **enabling environment** for youth entrepreneurship and enterprises.
- 2) Expand the **gender and green-responsive entrepreneurship education/training**, including ready-for-business soft skills, to more secondary schools; TVET institutes; out-of-school youth and youth businesses.

## Outcome 3: CAREER DECISION



Young women and men in Cambodia are able to make career decisions based on relevant knowledge and support services for decent and productive employment.

### What we do

- 1) Increase **availability of gender-responsive career advisory**, counselling and information services, and employability training, for both in-school and out-of-school youth.
- 2) Promote the **awareness of rights and responsibilities** at work among unionized and non-unionized youth.
- 3) Support the **mechanisms and processes in place to enable voices** of youth to influence national policy-making, program development and implementation.

## Strategies



Support Cambodian **policies strategies, programmes and plans** on youth employment.



Strengthen capacity and **coordination of RGC, private sector and other stakeholders**.



Support the **green and digital transformation and inclusion of transferable skills** to meet the **megatrends** of employment sector.



Maximize impact through **coordination and synergies across DEY**, including a joint focus on priority sectors and provinces.



Enhance **dialogue of selected national youth platforms on policy** and programme development.



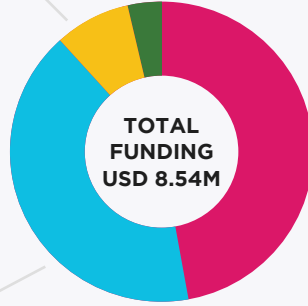
# Programme funding and partnership

Government: USD 0.69M

Private sector: USD 0.31M

## Parallel funding

[Australia; Canada; China; Cambodian Children's Fund (CCF); European Union (EU); Global Environment Facility (GEF); Germany; Japan; Norway; Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida); World Education; ILO; UNESCO; UNICEF; UNIDO; and UNRCO].



Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC): USD 4.06M



“ While learning to be a cook, I also acquired soft skills that are important for my work. Also, my on-the-job practice has driven my entrepreneurial goal. I want to keep improving my culinary craft so I can become a head chef and then open my own restaurant. ”

“ I think I am transformed. BEEP gave me the second chance to continue my education. This was like a bridge which let me achieve my dream job, although I am an orphan living in poor conditions. I am currently a Chef Assistant! ”



## Implementing agencies

