



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA

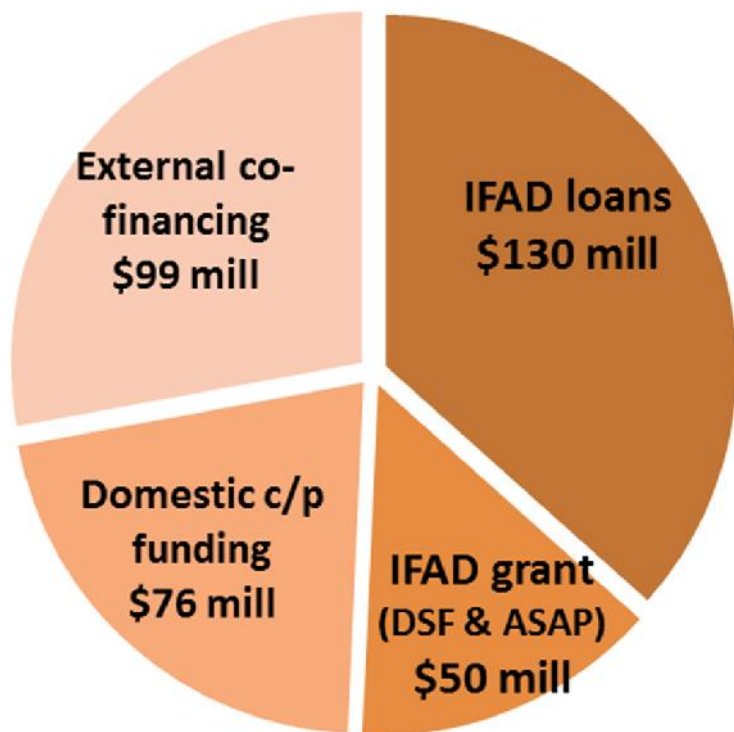
COUNTRY STRATEGY AND PROGRAMME EVALUATION

Main evaluation findings and recommendations

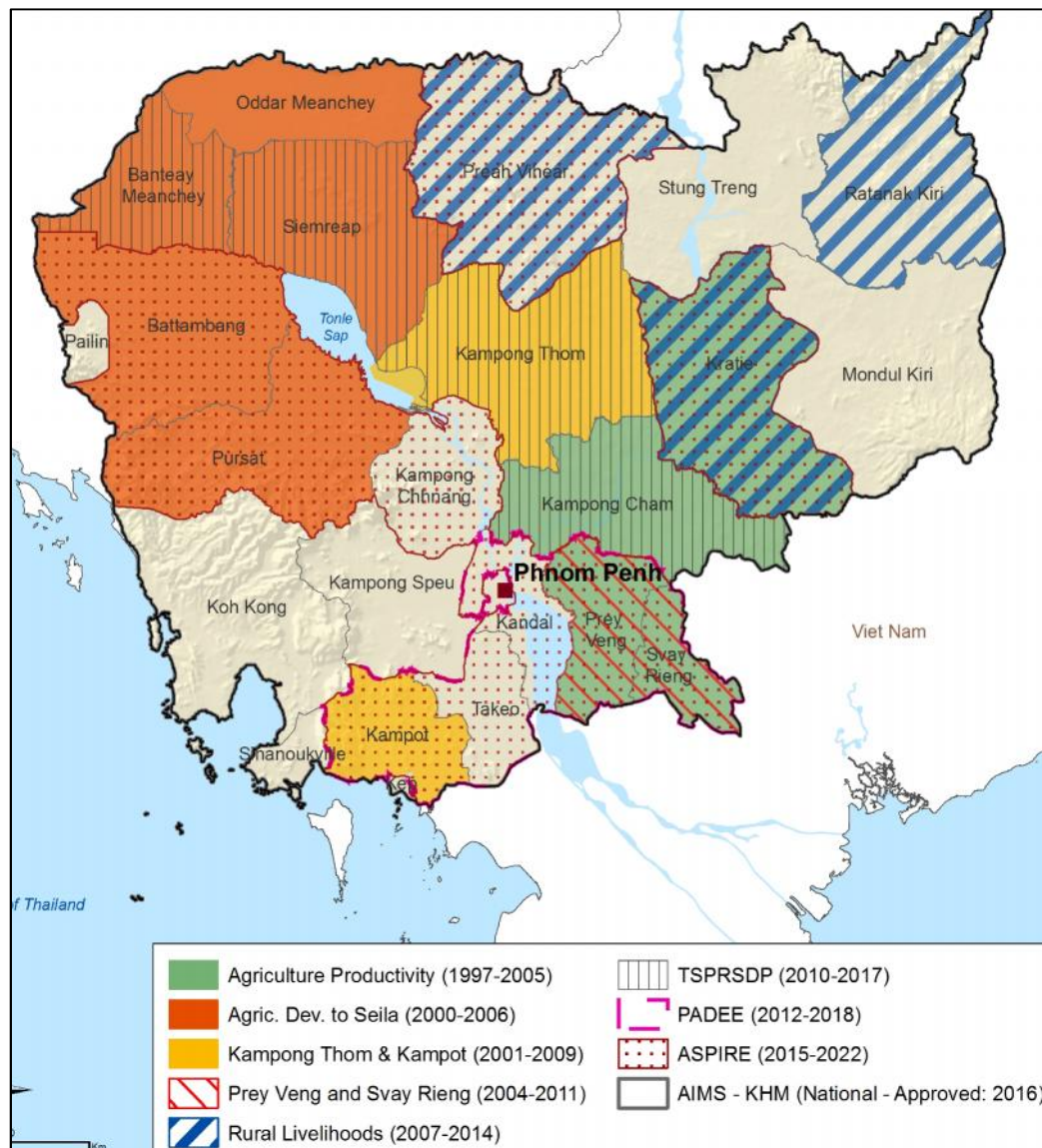
Evaluation Committee 100th session, 23 March 2018

IFAD in Cambodia: overview

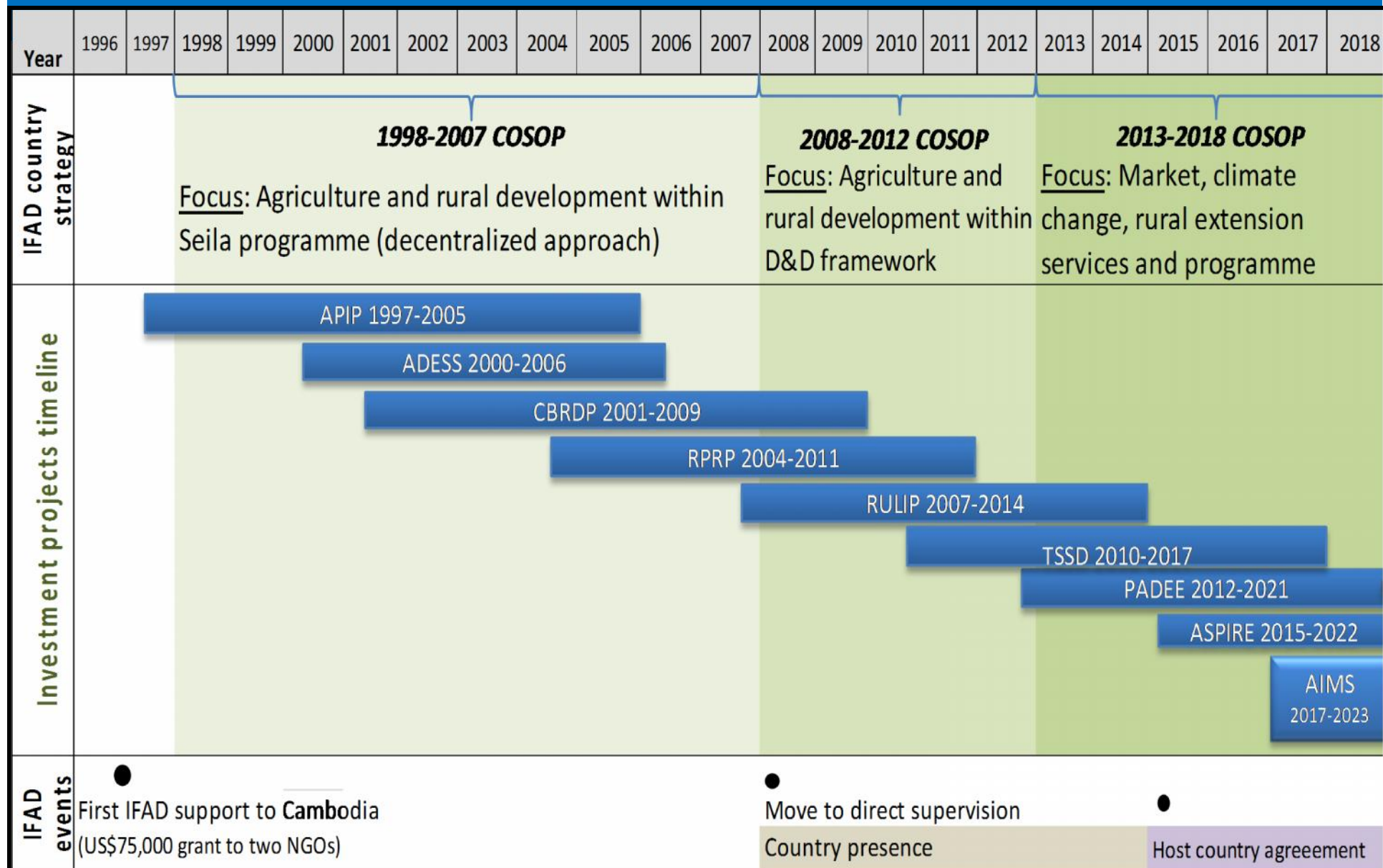
IFAD portfolio since 1996 for 9 projects
 (Total portfolio cost US\$354 million)



IFAD
 Investing in rural people



IFAD in Cambodia: timeline



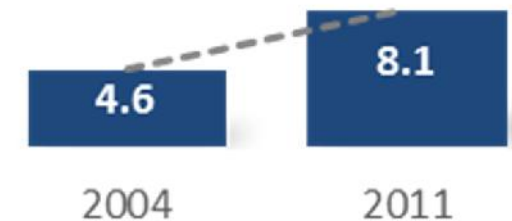
Country and rural context change

- Initially post-conflict reconstruction and rehabilitation and high level of poverty
- Strong economic growth and substantial decrease in poverty, but many “near poor” remain vulnerable to shocks
- Significant rise in non-agricultural income opportunities for rural households (e.g. garment factories, construction) – leading to labour shortages in rural areas.

Poor people (million)
($< \$1.15/\text{day}$)



Near poor people (million)
($\$1.15 < \$2.30/\text{day}$)



Main evaluation findings - highlights

Project portfolio – strengths (1)

- Contribution to **increased agricultural productivity** – and **diversification**, e.g.:
 - RULIP HHs 17% higher rice yield compared to non-project HHs
 - Diversification to vegetables, mushroom, etc.



- Support to **market linkage** (e.g. cluster approach) and **non-land-based activities** (e.g. poultry, handicraft) in recent projects – some encouraging results

Main evaluation findings - highlights

Project portfolio – strengths (2)

- **Gender equality and women’s empowerment:**
 - Women’s access to economic opportunities (e.g. poultry, vegetable, handicraft)
 - Women’s participation in public space



- **Effective support to the Government’s Decentralization and Deconcentration policy:**
 - Channeling investments through decentralized structures
 - Providing provincial departments and sub-national administrations with opportunities for “learning by doing”.

Main evaluation findings - highlights

Project portfolio – challenges and issues

- Repetition of similar approaches up to around 2010 (group formation, agricultural training, revolving fund)
- Implication of increasing non-agric. income opportunities and labour shortage in rural areas - not reflected adequately
- Tendency of offering a standard menu of agric. training; though improvement being made
- Demonstrated poverty focus, but the identification of the poor not necessarily followed by appropriate interventions
- Sustainability of some benefits uncertain

Main evaluation findings - highlights

Non-lending activities

Strengths

- Increasing attention to link project-level M&E to country programme level monitoring
- Diversified and strategic partnerships with dev't partners – effectiveness and innovation in projects
- Partnerships with farmer organizations and indigenous peoples' organizations – unique feature of IFAD

Weak areas / challenges

- Project M&E identified as a weak area, but now reinvigorated efforts
- Structured support and actions for policy engagement *beyond* project level relatively limited
- Room for better coordination and synergies between grants and investment projects

Storyline



- IFAD's role shifted from co-financing others' initiatives to being a leading financier with inputs to strategic direction and technical content (e.g. ongoing programmes on agricultural extension and value chain development)
- IFAD's strategy and project design also shifted in an effort to adapt to the evolving country and rural context – although with some delays
- Support in recent projects to market-oriented agriculture - relevant
- At the same time, it remains important to bolster the coping strategies of poorer households

Recommendations

1. Develop and operationalize a two-pronged strategy with support to:

- agricultural commercialization geared to relatively advanced smallholders
- coping strategies of poor households (e.g. non-land-based activities, labour-saving technologies, inclusive farmer groups)

Need tailored strategies relative to the target group profiles and specific contexts

2. Balance investment in human capital and rural organizations with tangible items

- A long-term perspective needed for investment in human and social capital and empowerment
- Need to explore opportunities for strategic partnerships for crucial technical assistance

Recommendations (cont.d)

3. More strategic planning and use of grants and investment financing to deepen **partnerships with farmer organizations/ associations.**
4. Explore options for supporting **regulatory services** in agriculture for improved and sustainable agriculture and commercialization (e.g. phytosanitary and veterinary control)
5. IFAD with the Government to **strategize and mobilize other partners to invest in smallholder agriculture** – ongoing two IFAD-Government programmes could serve as platforms (agric. extension and value chain development)