OUTCOME EVALUATION OF THE EDUCATION CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP FUND (CDPF), PHASE I AND II

Using outcome harvesting to trace programme results

Background: This outcome evaluation was conducted from July 2017 to February 2018 in Cambodia on the Education Capacity Development Partnership Fund (CDPF), Phase I and II. The purpose of CDPF is to provide capacity development support to the Cambodian education sector at all levels, from national all the way to school.

- Methodology. This evaluation used a mixed methods approach of qualitative and quantitative analysis. The methods include: a desk review, outcome harvesting case studies, semi-structured key information interviews, group interviews, focus group discussions, and a survey. The data from these various sources was then triangulated.

- Conclusions. The evaluation found CDPF Phases I and II were well-aligned with the relevant strategies, action plans and policies and had achieved significant outcomes for capacity development, especially at the individual and institutional levels in the short-term. There was still room for improvement in terms of efficiency and sustainability and in fully-integrating equity and gender equality across all elements of CDPF.

- Recommendations. 1) Develop a focused and programmatic approach to CDPF Phase III; 2) Develop a comprehensive approach to capacity development; 3) Undertake a functional review of education delivery structures; 4) Continue to strengthen the process of sub-national capacity development; 5) Introduce a comprehensive M&E system; 6) Outline a clear and timely exit strategy; 7) Integrate gender-responsive planning and targets; and 8) Provide support to coordination at provincial and district levels.

Lessons Learned

Capacity development should build up from local to national levels using step by-step approaches with adequate follow up. Coaching and training should be learner-centred and should promote organizational learning. Measuring capacity development at the organizational level should also be made a priority. Planning should include provisions for encouraging a cascading approach in order to cover the whole country. Appropriate measures, such as support mechanisms from projects and funds, should be included to encourage innovation, and thus risk-taking, in capacity development.