

MDG Achievement Fund
PROGRAMME QUARTERLY PROGRESS UPDATE
17 October 2008

Country/Theme:	Cambodia / Culture and Development	Participating UN Organization(s):	UNESCO; ILO; UNDP; FAO
Name of Joint Programme:	Creative Industries Support Programme		
OPAS Number	MDGF-1838		
Total Approved Programme Budget:	USD 3,300,000		
Total Amount Transferred to Date:	USD 1,001,851		
Date of first fund transfer:	11 September 2008		
Expected Programme Duration:	Three years		

Narrative (no more than 1 page): Significant events/achievements, and issues that are impeding implementation:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. On 22 May 2008, a preparatory PMC meeting was held with all stakeholders (4 UN agencies, and Cambodian partner Ministries). During this meeting, relevant focal points in each ministry were introduced to the UN partners and the general outlines of the JP were discussed. They were also asked to ensure that their respective Ministers would sign the approved Joint Programme Document as soon as possible. 2. All signatures were gathered by the end of May except one from the Minister of Agriculture, Forests and Fisheries. The Minister was only able to sign on 9 July. The delay was mainly due to his frequent absence from Phnom Penh in a time of electoral campaign but also to some interrogations he had about the content of the JP document, and which were eventually cleared by the FAO Focal Point and the JP Coordinator during a meeting at the Ministry. 3. Following the signature of the Joint Programme Document by all stake holders, several more weeks were necessary for the JP Coordinator in Phnom Penh and the MDG-F Secretariat in New York to finalize the administrative process leading to the release of funds. Some minor modifications to the JP document and budget were recommended and subsequently made, without however requiring that the JP document be signed again. The final Transfer Funds

request was sent by the JP Coordinator to NY on 8 September.

4. On **11 September 2008**, funds were transferred from NY to each agency's Headquarters. Most of the agencies' Field Office received the funds on 18 September. However, the FAO Phnom Penh Office has to this date not yet received the funds. Action is being taken by the regional office in Bangkok to ensure this matter is quickly solved.
5. As a result, the Joint Programme implementation is still in its very early phase: recruitment and equipment procurement. The JP Coordinator has however met with all four agencies' focal points and consultation concerning the modalities of execution has started. It is expected that all Joint Programme staff should have been recruited by mid-November. Up to now, the following persons have been recruited: UNESCO International Programme Coordinator (JP Coordinator); ILO International Business Development Expert. Recruitment of the National Staff for UNESCO, ILO and UNDP is currently under process. FAO recruitment is about to start.
6. Concerning the equipment procurements, the JP Coordinator is centralizing the requirements to prepare a joint bidding. ILO is taking care of the car procurement, in close consultation with the JP Coordinator
7. In the meanwhile, each agency has kept contact with the partner Cambodian Ministries in order to inform them about the launch of the programme. The Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts has already provided an office within which the Joint Programme team will be based and is currently renovating it. It should be ready by the end of October at the latest.
8. Once the staff recruitment and equipment procurement phase is completed, the Joint Programme team will focus on the actual implementation, starting with:
 - the identification of cultural products that have a potential for improved commercialization
 - the identification of producers / artists to be implicated in the Joint Programme
 - the identification of the liaison officers within the Ministries who will ensure that permanent contact is kept with the PMC members
 - The preparation of training courses for Ministries' officials
9. The next step will be then the meeting of the PMC, probably towards the end of November or early December.