

MDG Achievement Fund
PROGRAMME QUARTERLY PROGRESS UPDATE
20 April 2009

Country/Theme:	Cambodia / Culture and Development	Participating UN Organization(s):	UNESCO; ILO; UNDP; FAO
Name of Joint Programme:	Creative Industries Support Programme (CISP)		
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. During the third quarter, the MDG-F Joint Programme Team has been working on both completing the recruitment and procurement processes and moving forward the implementation of the CISP. 2. The entire Joint Programme team has now been recruited. The UNDP Coordinator will start working from 16 April (two UNDP focal points have been staffed on the JP in the meanwhile). The field-officers to be staffed in the JP target provinces have also been recruited by FAO and will be posted in Field Offices located in the Provincial Departments of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of each target province. Each Agency has contributed to equip the Joint Office provided by the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts (MoCFA). This Joint-Office is now almost fully equipped (furniture, computers, internet, telephone, photocopy machine...) while the JP Field Offices should be fully equipped by May 2009 (right after Khmer New Year). The JP car (purchased through the ILO financial component) has been delivered on 11 April. 3. The recruitment process for a Value Chain Analysis (VCA) consultancy has been initiated by UNDP, in close consultation with the three other UN Agencies. If the selected candidate is validated by UNDP regional committee, the consultancy should start before the end of April. The activity is determinant for the implementation of the JP since it will provide the Programme

Management Committee (PMC) with relevant inputs in order to select the cultural products/services to be promoted in each target province.

4. From the end of February to the end of March, the JP Team carried out three missions to the four target provinces of the CISP, where they met with local authorities (thanks to the coordination of the MoCFA) with NGOs and with communities in order to present the JP and to identify potential cultural products / services on site. The field trips were successful and very useful to both meet with potential partners and better understand the situation on site. The missions especially highlighted challenges not foreseen in the project document (i.e. the complete lack of Business Development Providers in the provinces and the risks due to cultural sensitivities with respect to entrepreneurial development), as well as constraints unique to IP communities (severe time limitations with regards to handicraft productions, lack of entrepreneurial spirit, very low technical capacities). These constraints are significant issues which need to be addressed in the PMC towards the realization of the indicative activities as set forth in the Joint Project Document. The JP Team has also met with potential partners and interlocutors in Phnom Penh. Based on these missions and consultations, a number of potential cultural products / services have been identified to serve as inputs for the VCA consultancy and to be further discussed for possible submission to the PMC. It is worth noting that the actual onsite situation has led the JP Team to widen their scope regarding the definition of “cultural products and services” by including, for instance, cultural sites and non timber natural products (typical of the target provinces).

These field trips have also been the occasion to visit and identify potential sites for the creation of Museums and Cultural Enterprise Centres to be built through the UNESCO component of the JP and also to discuss with and advise the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts and potential implementing organizations on the way such institutions could be run and managed.

The Living Human Treasure component has been moving forward with research trips in the target provinces organized through the MoCFA in parallel with the JP Team field trips. Several potential traditional disciplines and Master candidates have been identified as well. Further work is planned with the Ministry to promote the elaboration of the sub-decree on the National LHT System.

5. With regards to the interaction with the Royal Government of Cambodia, the JP Team is working on establishing closer working relationships with each partner Ministry. During the field trips, meetings have been organized with representatives of the Provincial Departments of each partner Ministry as well as associate Ministries. In Phnom Penh, daily working relationships with the MoCFA are very positive. The focal point of the Ministry of Industry, Mines & Energy (ILO partner Ministry) has visited the Joint Office for a preliminary meeting. The Ministry of Commerce (UNDP partner Ministry) is in the process of officially appointing a focal point. The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (FAO partner Ministry) is providing offices to the JP Field Officers in each target province.

The JP Team is working to convene a PMC in May in order to present the results of the preliminary activities to the partner Ministries. On this occasion, an official launch could be organized in collaboration with the UNRC Office. A second PMC will be convened once the Value Chain Analysis is completed, in order to select the cultural products/services to be promoted.

6. In late January, the JP Coordinator has been in contact with the Spanish representative in Cambodia (Head of the Spanish Cooperation Agency) to inform him of the preliminary activities. A new meeting should soon be organized at the Joint Office with the whole JP Team. The JP Team also plans to brief the UNRC once the VCA consultancy recruitment is validated.