



UNITED NATIONS

Department for Disarmament Affairs

**REPORT ON THE FACT-FINDING MISSION
TO THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA**

13-20 June 2002

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The Department for Disarmament Affairs wishes to acknowledge the generous support of the Government of Japan, whose contribution to the Trust Fund for Global and Regional Disarmament Activities made this mission possible.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background and Mission Objectives

After more than 30 years of armed conflict, the Royal Government of Cambodia (hereafter referred to as “the Royal Government”) found itself confronted with a massive proliferation of small arms and light weapons in the hands of the security forces and the civilian population, which posed a grave threat to the security, stability and development of the country. To contain this problem, the Government embarked on a vigorous campaign to collect and destroy illegally held arms. However, given its limited resources and the enormity of the problem, it launched an appeal to the international community for assistance. The European Union and the Government of Japan both responded by launching Weapons for Development (WfD) pilot projects in two of the most affected provinces.

On 23 November 2000, the acting Prime Minister of Cambodia, H.E. Mr. Sar Kheng, also addressed a letter to the Secretary-General requesting United Nations assistance in dealing with the problem. In response to that request, the Secretary-General dispatched a fact-finding mission to conduct a preliminary assessment of the situation, in close cooperation with the Cambodian authorities, with a view to developing a practical response to the Government’s concerns. The mission visited Cambodia from 23 to 30 January 2001.

The mission concluded that Cambodia’s fragile peace was indeed threatened by the uncontrolled proliferation of small arms and light weapons, which not only destabilized the country’s delicate political balance, but also contributed to a dramatic increase in criminal activities and the attendant insecurity of the population. It also concluded that there was serious commitment on the part of all Cambodians to rid their country of these killing machines and that their efforts were severely hampered by an acute lack of financial resources and technical expertise in weapons collection and disposal.

Accordingly, the mission recommended, inter alia, the establishment of a strong partnership between the Royal Government, the Government of Japan, the European Union, other international donors and the United Nations in addressing the problem. It also proposed that a follow-up mission be undertaken, the earliest possible, for the purposes of formulating and designing WfD project in the Bakan district. However, due to circumstances beyond DDA’s control, the project formulation mission was postponed twice. In the interim, the Government of Japan decided to partner with the EU in implementing a WfD project in the Bakan district. Following consultations with all parties involved and, in particular, with the Governments of Cambodia and Japan, the project formulation mission was finally dispatched in June 2002.

Summary of Findings

Based on extensive consultations with Cambodian senior government officials, NGOs as well as representatives of the EU and United Nations agencies the mission concluded that the security situation in the country had improved tremendously from the previous year. In fact, the mission was informed that threat posed by the proliferation of illegal weapons had been reduced significantly as the Royal Government through its own initiatives and the assistance of the EU and the Government of Japan had collected the bulk of the known weapons, close to 120,000. The mission concluded that most of the remaining security problems were largely due to the low capacity of security forces to maintain law and order rather than due to the availability of illegal weapons in the country. By all accounts the mission was informed that there were very few weapons left to warrant the implementation of additional weapons for development projects.

However, the mission was informed that international assistance is still required in other areas, in particular, for the dissemination of information on the new Arms Law which, it is hoped will enter into force sometime in the beginning of 2003. Other areas requiring international assistance include capacity building of the National Commission for Weapons Management and Reform (NCWMR) and the police force as well as the organization of a sub-regional seminar that will summarize lessons learned from the Cambodian weapons collection efforts.

Summary of Recommendations

In the light of the summary findings above, the mission is of the view that the UN should provide assistance in the following areas:

- capacity building of the National Commission for Weapons Management and Reform (NCWMR), in particular assisting it with setting up its secretariat, training its personnel and developing its programme of work;
- capacity building of security forces aiming, in particular, at improving their relations with local communities and strengthening their cooperation with neighbouring countries in the fight against the proliferation of small arms;
- developing and launching of public awareness campaigns with focus on the new arms law;
- organizing of the sub-regional seminar on lessons learned from the Cambodian experience with weapons collection programmes.

It is proposed that the above areas of support be implemented under the umbrella of a single field project with relevant components carried out by various UN Departments/Agencies local and international NGOs with relevant competencies.

I. Introduction

On 23 November 2000, the acting Prime Minister of Cambodia, H.E. Mr. Sar Kheng, also addressed a letter to the Secretary-General requesting United Nations assistance in dealing with the problem. In response to that request, the Secretary-General dispatched a fact-finding mission to conduct a preliminary assessment of the situation, in close cooperation with the Cambodian authorities, with a view to developing a practical response to the Government's concerns. The mission visited Cambodia from 23 to 30 January 2001.

The mission concluded that Cambodia's fragile peace was indeed threatened by the uncontrolled proliferation of small arms and light weapons, which not only destabilized the country's delicate political balance, but also contributed to a dramatic increase in criminal activities and the attendant insecurity of the population.

Accordingly, it recommended, inter alia, that the United Nations lend its support to the efforts of the Royal Government and those of the European Union and the Government of Japan who were already carrying out a number of projects in the country. The mission also proposed that a follow-up mission be undertaken, the earliest possible, for the purposes of formulating and designing WfD project in one of the most affected districts, the Bakan district. However, due to circumstances beyond DDA's control, the project formulation mission was postponed twice. In the interim, the Government of Japan decided to partner with the EU in implementing a WfD project in the Bakan district. Following consultations with all parties involved and, in particular, with the Governments of Cambodia and Japan, the project formulation mission was finally dispatched in June 2002.

II. Mission Objective

As mentioned above, this was a follow-up mission to the January 2001 fact-finding mission. Its objective was to formulate and design a field project to support national initiatives for arms collection in Cambodia, in consultation with all national and relevant regional authorities as well as civil society and UN Country Team.

III. Mission Activities

Upon its arrival, the mission met with the United Nations Resident Coordinator and the UNDP team who briefed it on the current socio-economic situation in the country. The UNDP team raised a number of questions. They wanted to know the level of funding that DDA had for the development component of the project; the time frame and management arrangements for the implementation of the project; the geographical area to be covered by the project and the types of development activities envisaged and; whether DDA was aware of the soon to be enacted Government legislation on small arms and how its entry into force was going to impact on future WfD projects. They were of the view that in the light of EU/ASAC and Japanese pilot projects in the Snoul and Bakan districts, respectively, there was no more need for pilot projects, but rather full fledged development projects. They were also of the view that the

potential for WfD projects still existed, however, in order to make a difference, such projects would have to be implemented in more than one province. They welcomed DDA's initiative to implement a disarmament education project in Kampong Chhnang and suggested that DDA consider expanding it to other provinces. They also suggested that DDA look at assisting the Government in security sector reform, in particular, in the area of civil-military relations.

The mission also met with high-level officials of the Ministry of Interior, the National Police and the National Commission for Weapons Management and Reform (NCWMR), who informed it about continued efforts of the Royal Government to overcome the legacy of the civil war and, in particular, to identify, collect and destroy illegal weapons in the country. While Government officials were not quite sure just how many weapons remained to be collected, they were of a view that the bulk of them had been collected already and that whatever few were left did not warrant the implementation of further WfD projects. The mission was also informed of the very important role played by the EU/ASAC and the Government of Japan in providing support to these efforts and, in particular, weapons for development schemes and assistance in the drafting of the new arms law. In addition to the new arms law, the mission was informed that the Government intends passing a Sub-Decree and Proclamation, which might lengthen the amnesty period, currently put at three months after the entry into force of the. During the discussion that followed the government officials outlined a number of areas for which international assistance was still required. These include: the tracing and tracking of whatever illegal weapons still remained in the country; public awareness campaigns on the objectives of the new arms law; tracing sources of weapons; training of security officers, border and customs officials; institutional capacity building for the NCWMR and support for the Cambodia Mine Action Committee.

Per agreement in New York between DDA and the Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations, the mission met with Japanese officials in charge of the Japanese small arms project in Cambodia, who briefed it on Japan's plans to launch a programme of activities in Siem Reap, Banteay Meanchey and Oddar Meanchey Provinces, which will include: (i) a weapons reduction and development for peace project, (ii) a weapons Destruction project; (iii) a safe storage and registration project; (iv) a police support project and; (v) a public awareness campaign focussing on voluntarily arms surrender by civilians offering development as the main incentive. Japan is also planning to introduce the Koban system as one of the means to increasing police capacity to fight crime. The mission was informed that the Government of Japan intended to launch this programme in the nearest future.

The mission also met with the EU/ASAC management who briefed it on EU/ASAC weapons collection and destruction efforts as well as on its assistance to the Royal Government in drafting the new arms law. According to the EU/ASAC most weapons that needed to be collected had been collected already. It was also of the view that the concept of WfD was counter productive as it raised a lot of expectations for development programmes whose magnitude could not be met through such initiatives. EU/ASAC also believes that WfD projects would become redundant once the new arms law enters into force. With regard to future activities, it will continue providing the Government with assistance in the areas of safe storage and registration of weapons held by the police force, after the amnesty period is over, while Japan is likely to assist the military.

In order to obtain a more balanced view on current weapons-for development initiatives, the mission also met with the management of the SEILA Project¹ in Phnom Penh. They wanted to know the main objective of DDA's proposed project, whether it was for development per se or security purposes. In their view, the issue of security was of major concern to most communities since they had no faith in the security forces. They were of the view that security should be looked at from the point of view of good governance. In this regard, they suggested the need to look at lessons learned from the Bakan district. They also strongly felt that whatever project is implemented should be replicable and that local participants should be involved in its planning. In their view, it was crucial to improve relations between the police and local government authorities, in order to improve the capacity for sustainable local policing.

In addition, the mission also undertook field visits to Pursat, Kampong Chhnang and Siem Reap Provinces where it met with SEILA and EU/ASAC project office staff and visited a number of project sites. The primary focus of the projects visited was to meet basic the needs of rural and resettled communities through the provision of small rural infrastructure projects and essential social services (schools, clinics, bridges, roads etc) as well as to provide support for income-generating activities.

During those field visits, the mission also met with provincial governors, police commissioners, senior army officials and middle management officials who provided it with comprehensive information on socio-economic and security situations in their respective provinces as well as their efforts towards crime prevention and curbing the proliferation of illegal arms. They expressed great appreciation to the UN and the international community for their support to the governments' efforts in post-conflict reconstruction and reconciliation.

The mission had a number of meetings with the representatives of national and international NGOs active in such as areas as the micro-disarmament, human rights, community development and gender issues, who also provided it with information on their activities and views on various aspects of curbing illegal small arms in Cambodia. It was informed that major NGO initiatives against illegal small arms are organized in the framework of the Working Group for Weapons Reduction (WGWR) which was formed in 1998 and which represents the first civil society effort focussing on small arms in the country and the region. Its initiatives include: (i) the monitoring and research project whose objective is to promote understanding of the problem of small arms among the government, the international community and civil society with a view to helping support government action on this issue; (ii) the information and advocacy project whose objective is to contribute to the government's review and formulation of a strategic plan for the collection, destruction, management and monitoring of SALW; (iii) a public education project that helps target groups consider the

¹ SEILA (a Khmer word that means foundation stone) is a Government initiative to establish a national programme to promote local economic development activities through decentralized planning and decision making. SEILA is widely seen in the country as the foundation on which to build an effective and self-sustaining rural anti-poverty effort which has the potential to bring about social cohesion, behavioral changes and organization in villages and communes in regions where the social fabric and farm-production organization has been largely disrupted or dismantled by the country's prolonged war. It also serves as a model to reintegrate former Khmer Rouge-held territories into the mainstream of the Cambodian society.

negative effects of small arms and light weapons use and develop commitment to non-violent problem solving and: the NGO partnership project whose objective is to provide increasing opportunities for civil society to enter into dialog and on SALW.

In the light of the importance and need for coordinating UN efforts to eliminate the threat posed by illegal small arms issue in the country, the mission also met with the UN Country Team. The meeting highlighted a number of areas of possible future cooperation in the DDA project, in particular, between DDA and UNESCO, which already has developed a number of practical initiatives in the promotion of the culture of peace. At the conclusion of its mission activities, the mission held a debriefing session at which it shared its findings with the UN country Team.

IV. Findings

Security Situation

Based on extensive consultations with all concerned, the mission concluded that the security situation in the country had improved tremendously from the previous year. In fact, the mission was informed that threat posed by the proliferation of illegal weapons had been reduced significantly as the Royal Government through its own initiatives and the assistance of the EU and the Government of Japan had collected the bulk of the known weapons, close to 120,000. The remaining security problems were largely due to the low capacity of security forces to maintain law and order rather than due to the availability of illegal weapons in the country.

Notwithstanding the achievements attained so far, the mission was informed that additional international assistance was still required, in particular, in the dissemination of information on the new Arms Law which, it is hoped will enter into force sometime beginning of 2003. Other areas requiring international assistance include capacity building of the National Commission for Weapons Management and Reform (NCWMR); the training of the security and police forces as well as border and customs officials and; the organization of a sub-regional seminar that will summarize lessons learned from the Cambodian weapons collection efforts.

Weapons for Development

From the information received from consultations with senior government officials, NGOs as well as representatives of the EU/ASAC, it was quite clear that the momentum for a UN sponsored WfD project had been lost as the bulk of the weapons (approx. 120, 000) in the country had been collected already through the Government's own initiatives and those of the EU/ASAC and the Government of Japan. In fact, the mission was informed that the Government of Japan is planning to expand the pilot phase of weapons for development scheme bilaterally into three more provinces (tentatively identified as Siem Reap, Banteay Meanchey, Oddar Meanchey). By all accounts the mission was informed that there were very

few weapons left to warrant the implementation of additional weapons for development projects.

New Arms Law

The Royal Government has drafted a new arms law to replace Sub Decree No. 38, which has been regulating possession and registration of weapons since 1998. The new law, drafted with the assistance of the EU/ASAC is expected to enter into force sometime during the beginning of 2003. The Royal Government is planning to launch a massive public awareness and information campaign to disseminate it, with particular focus on remote communities of the country. In order to carry out this exercise the Royal Government is seeking UN assistance.

V. Recommendations

The mission concluded that it was no longer feasible for DDA to initiate a separate full-fledged Weapons for Development project. Firstly, because the Royal Government is of the opinion that weapons left uncollected from previous campaigns do not pose a serious threat to the country's security and, secondly because Japan will continue and expand its support to the ongoing WfD activities and target the remaining uncollected weapons in a few more provinces. In addition, after the amnesty period expires, under the new arms law, WfD schemes can no longer be entertained as so doing would contradict the provisions of the new law, which require total and unconditional surrender of all illegally held weapons.

In this regard in the light of the findings of the mission and taking into account the areas of assistance outlined by the Royal Government, the mission would like to propose provision of UN assistance in the following areas:

- capacity building of the National Commission for Weapons Management and Reform (NCWMR), in particular assisting it with setting up its secretariat, training its personnel and developing its programme of work;
- capacity building of security forces aiming, in particular, at improving their relations with local communities and strengthening their cooperation with neighbouring countries in the fight against the proliferation of small arms;
- developing and launching of public awareness campaigns with focus on the new arms law;
- organizing of the sub-regional seminar on lessons learned from the Cambodian experience with weapons collection programmes.

It is proposed that the above areas of support be implemented under the umbrella of a single field project.

ANNEX I**UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT****Departments for Disarmament Affairs, Department for Social and Economic Affairs****Project Proposal
Outline****Support to the Government of Cambodia in Curbing Proliferation of
Illicit Small Arms****1. Project Justification**

After more than 30 years of a bloody civil conflict, the Royal Government of Cambodia (hereafter referred to as “the Royal Government) found itself confronted with a new problem, that of a massive proliferation of small arms and light weapons in the hands of not only the security forces, but also the civilian population, which posed a grave threat to the security, stability and development of the country. To contain this problem, the Government embarked on a vigorous campaign to collect and destroy illegally held arms. However, given its limited resources and the enormity of the problem, it launched an appeal to the international community for assistance. The European Union and the Government of Japan both responded by launching Weapons for Development (WfD) pilot projects in two of the badly affected provinces.

On 23 November 2000, the acting Prime Minister of Cambodia, H.E. Mr. Sar Kheng, also addressed a letter to the Secretary-General requesting United Nations assistance in dealing with the problem. In response to that request, the Secretary-General dispatched a fact-finding mission to conduct a preliminary assessment of the situation, in close cooperation with the Cambodian authorities, with a view to developing a practical response to the Government’s concerns. The mission which visited Cambodia from 23 to 30 January 2001 and concluded, inter alia, that Cambodia’s fragile peace was indeed threatened by the uncontrolled proliferation of small arms and light weapons, which not only destabilized the country’s delicate political balance, but also contributed to a dramatic increase in criminal activities and the attendant insecurity of the population.

Accordingly, it recommended, inter alia, that the United Nations lend its support to the efforts of the Royal Government and those of the EU, which, since 2000 has successfully implemented a number of projects in Cambodia, including the Weapons for Development (WfD) pilot project in Snuol District, assisting the Royal Government with drafting the New Arms Law as well as with record keeping and safe storage of the weapons used by security forces. In addition to EU assistance, in 2001 the Government of Japan also launched and

successfully executed a WfD pilot project in the Bakan District. Building upon its success in the Bakan District the Government of Japan is planning to launch similar projects in Seam Reap, Banteay Meanchey and Oddar Meanchey provinces.

In this connection, in June 2002, the United Nations fielded a joint Department for Disarmament Affairs (DDA) and Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) mission for the purposes of formulating and designing a field project in support of the efforts of the Royal Government to curb the proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons in the country. Notwithstanding the achievements made in the collection and destruction of excess weapons, during this visit, the mission was informed that while the threat posed by the proliferation of illegal weapons had been reduced significantly, in order to consolidate the gains and peace attained so far, additional international assistance, was required in the following areas:

- capacity building of the National Commission for Weapons Management and Reform (NCWMR), in particular assisting it with setting up its secretariat, training its personnel and developing its programme of work;
- capacity building of security forces aiming, in particular, at improving their relations with local communities and strengthening their cooperation with neighbouring countries in the fight against the proliferation of small arms;
- developing and launching of public awareness campaigns with focus on the new arms law;
- organizing of the sub-regional seminar on lessons learned from the Cambodian experience with weapons collection programmes.

In response to this request, DDA is proposing the formulation and design of a single field project (see attached) that will include support to all the above-mentioned areas.

2. Project Objective

The primary objective of the project is to assist the Cambodian Government in building its capacity to deal with the problem of the proliferation of illicit small arms.

3. Project Strategy

The project is consistent with the recommendations contained in the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects adopted at the July 2001 UN Small Arms Conference, as well as the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for Cambodia. Its strategy will be based on the following principles:

- The primary responsibility to address and resolve the proliferation of illicit small arms rests with the Royal Government of Cambodia. Consequently, the Royal Government should play a leading role in the search for solutions;
- Recognition of the value of the expertise of relevant civil society bodies, including specialized NGOs as well as seeking and promoting their active participation in the implementation of the project;
- The cooperation and search for common ground between the Royal Government and civil society is therefore viewed as an important factor for the success of the project;
- Recognition of the importance of empowering a Cambodia ‘small arms constituency’ and enhancing its capacity to analyze the problem, identify solutions, set priorities, mobilize and manage resources (including the political will) to address the problem, and interact meaningfully with other interested actors;
- A participatory, transparent and sustainable approach.

The main aim of the project will be to build capacity of the Government’s capacity to plan, coordinate and execute activities against proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons in the country. This will include building capacity of and assistance to the National Commission, responsible for planning and coordination of such activities.

The project will assist in preparation of the National Plan which will entail:

1. Identification of short-term and long-term goals;
2. A realistic and viable strategy;
3. Resources – both financial and human, coupled with an appreciation of what resources are available and what are required to achieve stated goals;
4. A timeframe to achieve the goals already outlined;
5. The identification of leading government agencies and an agreed-to division of labor to take on the envisaged workload.

A mechanism should be put in-place (A Task Force that will include representatives of the National Commission as well as members of the civil society) to draft such a plan and to ensure its effective and coherent realization. The Task Force will be assisted in its work by the representatives of DDA and DESA. Prior to starting its work it would carry out the following preparatory tasks:

- Organize and conduct realistic and thorough assessment of the problem;

- Ensure the development amongst all key stakeholders of a common understanding of the problem;
- An acknowledgement of the *national* responsibility to address this problem by all parties concerned.

In stressing the importance of coordination between national structures to deal effectively with the threat posed by small arms, we have envisaged an equally important requirement for the United Nations to assist in the facilitation of any such national coordinating body, operating at all appropriate levels. This will require close cooperation from the UN Country Team.

One of the important components of the National Plan will be an Information and Communication Strategy. National Commission will be responsible for the awareness raising and information campaign the overall goal of which will be to raise awareness of the population, in particular in the remote communities, on the new arms law and on danger of possessing weapons. In this regard support will be provided to the preparation of the content of the information provided to the population through mass media and assistance with material resources and equipment for the existing mass media and central radio. Given the high rate of illiteracy in the remote regions the emphasis will be made on visual material, like leaflets and posters. Police at province, district and commune level who will be the main actors will be supported by the project in terms of capacity building. UN country team, and in particular, UNESCO as well as national NGOs will be actively involved.

4. Project Activities

To implement the above strategy it is proposed that the project will be focusing on the following activities:

4.1 Needs assessment to combat illicit arms in the country will be conducted by a national consultant(s) who will be recruited by the project.

4.2 Work plan for the National Commission that will specify long and short-term goals including timetable and required human, material and financial resources for each proposed activity with the breakdown of the approved budget.

4.2.1 Information and Communication Strategy will be prepared as a part of the Work Plan. Information and Communication strategy will specify activities and timeframe for the awareness campaign on the new law on firearms as well as on promotion of culture of peace.

4.3 Capacity building of the National Commission. Assistance in establishing of a Permanent Secretariat will be provided by the project. Such assistance will be provided in a form of a technical advice and expertise as well as in procurement of some office equipment for normal functioning of the Permanent Secretariat.

4.4 Assistance in the preparation of the awareness campaign on the new law and practical assistance in its implementation through the national security forces and civil society and national NGOs. This work will be done in close cooperation and coordination with multilateral and bilateral donors and UN Country Team, in particular EU and UNESCO who have previous experience in designing conducting public awareness campaigns against illicit arms.

4.5 Capacity building of the security forces at the central level.

A seminar will be organized for security forces to introduce the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat, and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects in general adopted during the United Nations International Conference on Small Arms held in New York in July 2001.

Special training will be provided with regard to the ways of improving cooperation and relations between security forces and local governments as well as civil society. Particular attention in the course of capacity building activities will be paid to issues of regional and sub-regional cooperation against proliferation of small arms

4.6 *Organization of* a sub-regional seminar on Small Arms in Phnom Penh. The seminar will analyze the work done by the neighboring Governments in the sub-region in fighting proliferation of illicit small arms and provide recommendations on future activities. The sub-regional seminar will also provide an opportunity to tackle common issues in the sub-region such as illicit trade of illegal weapons and to establish a work-level network among participants.

5. Implementation Arrangements

The Department for Economic and Social Affairs will execute the project under political and substantive guidance of DDA in coordination with the UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Office in Phnom Penh which will assist in implementation of project activities.

The Project will be administered by DESA according to the appropriate rules and regulations of the United Nations.

A technical support group consisting of the experts from DDA and DESA will be established at the UN Secretariat. The UN Department for Political Affairs will be invited to provide political expertise to the project.

A project unit will be established in Phnom Penh consisting of a locally recruited national project manager and a technical assistant employed on a part-time basis. The unit will be working in close cooperation with the UN country team.

Local expert(s) will be hired to conduct needs assessment and awareness-raising campaign.

6. Timeframe

The duration of the project will be one year.

7. Budget

It is planned that the project activities would not exceed the amount of USD 500,000.

ANNEX II

Department for Disarmament Affairs (DDA)

Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Mission to Cambodia

Terms of Reference

BACKGROUND

Cambodia experienced two decades of violent civil war, which have resulted in the widespread availability and use of small weapons. Although statistics on illegally held small arms are hard to obtain, it is estimated that there are more than half a million small weapons in Cambodia in individual possession.

Several institutions and initiatives have been undertaken to reduce the proliferation of small arms. The Royal Government has established a National Commission on Weapons Management and Reform (NCWMR), and the Municipality of Phnom Penh has launched several initiatives to assess the extent of the problem and to resolve it. Regional Governors have also played a major role in weapons control, through the Provincial Commissions for Weapons Confiscation and Control. The civil society has also contributed to reducing the illegal possession and trafficking in small weapons. The NGO coalition “Working Group on Weapons Reduction” has been particularly prominent in this regard.

After efforts by UNTAC (the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia) to address the problem had not produced the expected results, the Government in 1998 launched a campaign to disarm civilians in urban areas through a buy-back programme. This was followed by a further campaign by the Ministry of the Interior to collect weapons through a voluntary remission of weapons to the police stations or their registration. At the end of this effort, in early 2001, more than 100,000 weapons had been collected and one-third of these had been destroyed in public events.

Some of these initiatives have been taken with the support of the international community. The European Union and the Government of Japan have been particularly active in this field, adopting the “weapons-for-development” approach. They have been actively engaged in supporting community development efforts in a few regions of the country in exchange for the return of small arms.

On 23 November 2000, the Royal Government addressed a letter to the Secretary-General requesting the assistance of the United Nations in addressing the problem. In response to this request, the Secretary-General dispatched a fact-finding mission composed of disarmament experts from DDA to Cambodia in order to evaluate the small arms situation in the country, and to find out how the United Nations could collaborate with the European Union and the Government of Japan in assisting the Royal Government. Following the experiences of the EU in Cambodia, the Government of Japan proposed a joint DDA-Japan “weapons-for-development” project in the Bakan district. Accordingly, a DDA-led mission visited Cambodia from 23 to 30 January 2001.

The mission concluded that the uncontrolled proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons could contribute to the destabilization of the country’s delicate political balance and was responsible for a dramatic increase in criminal activities and the attendant insecurity of the population. The mission thus recommended that the United Nations, in cooperation with the international donor community, should support the existing efforts in the country and devise a “weapons for development” project in the Bakan district. The mission further concluded that a well-designed project document could be an effective instrument of combating illicit small arms proliferation in Cambodia.

Accordingly, and with the support of the Government of Japan, a multi-departmental mission led by the Department for Disarmament Affairs and composed of representatives of the Department of Social and Economic Affairs, the United Nations development Programme and the United Nations Office for Project Services was supposed to visit Cambodia from 2 to 8 September 2001. However, due to unforeseen circumstances, the mission was postponed and is now scheduled to take place from 12 to 20 June 2002 and will now be composed of DDA, DESA and UNDP.

OBJECTIVE

To formulate and design a project document to support national initiatives for arms collection in Cambodia, in consultation with all national and relevant regional authorities and UN agencies, and taking into account the views of civil society.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS

- Up-to-date information about the small arms situation in the concerned region and in the country;

- A “weapons-for-development” project document to be implemented in the concerned region, in accordance with UN procedures and regulations, including, inter alia;
 - Identification of the roles and responsibilities of the executing and implementing partners involved, including the Government of Cambodia and the donor community;
 - Identification of the financial and human resources required for the execution of the project;
 - Concrete recommendations related to time frames, logistics, expected outputs, and possible risks;
 - Provision for a coordinating mechanism among the existing initiatives in the area;
 - Provision for monitoring and evaluation of the project;
 - Provision for the establishment of a public information and awareness campaign.

ACTIVITIES

The mission will:

- Consult national authorities with a view to identifying the specific substantive areas and geographic zones where the project should operate, in order to identify the substantive components and the localisation of the project;
- Interview the authorities in the provinces that would have been suggested at the national level. Earlier contacts with Government and UNDP would suggest that the Provinces of Otdar Meanchey and Seam Reap may be ideal regions for intervention. However, in the light of the new DDA-Hague Appeal initiative to implement a project on disarmament education in Kampong Chhnang Province, DDA would like to suggest its inclusion as a third option;
- Discuss operational issues in the formulation of the project document with management and personnel of UNDP and DESA;
- Consult with civil society organisations on the priority problems and proposed solutions;
- Review the experience, in small arms control, of the national government, regional governments and international organizations (e.g. EU, UNDP...);
- Discuss and review the draft project document with national and regional authorities;
- Finalize the draft project document, taking into account the comments and suggestions of the stakeholders;

- Design the criteria for selection of international project personnel.
- Assess potential linkage and synergy with DDA's expected initiative in the area of disarmament education.

The mission will visit the project designated district from 14 to 18 June 2000 and present its first draft project document for discussion with the national and regional authorities, the United Nations system, the Embassy of Japan, and with civil society organisations from 19 to 20 June, in Phnom Penh.

COMPOSITION

- A representative from DDA (Team Leader)
- A representative from DDA
- A representative from DESA
- A representative from UNDP

ANNEX III

Mission Programme: UN DDA/DESA Mission to Cambodia

	Date/Time	Events	Venue
1	Wed – 12 June		
	5:45 p.m.	Arrival in Phnom Penh	
		Check in at Goldiana Hotel	Goldiana Hotel
2	Thu – 13 June		
2.1	9:00 a.m.	Initial Meeting with UNDP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ms. Dominique Ait Ouyahia-McAdams, Resident Representative ▪ Mr. Ladislaus Byenkya-Abwooli, Deputy Resident Representative ▪ Mr. Ernest Bautista, Governance Advisor ▪ Mr. Massoud Hedeshi, Programme Manager 	UNDP Cambodia
2.2	10:00 a.m.	Royal Government of Cambodia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr. Em Sam An, Secretary of State, Ministry of Interior ▪ Mr. Ouk Kim Lek Director, Department of Police Administration, MOI ▪ Mr. King Samnang, Deputy Commissioner General, Cambodian National Police Mr. Ngan Chamroen, Assistant to Deputy Prime Minister, Director of International Cooperation Department of National Authority for Combating Drugs 	Ministry of Interior
2.3	11:30 a.m.	Embassy of Japan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr. Yutaka Aoki, First Secretary ▪ Mr. Kentaro Gemma, Researcher 	Embassy of Japan
2.4	2:00 p.m.	SEILA Task Force <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr. Leap Van Den, Deputy Secretary General 	SEILA Office
2.5	3:30 p.m.	Royal Government of Cambodia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr. Hok Lundy, Director-General of National Police ▪ Mr. Ouk Kim Lek Director, Department of Police Administration, MOI ▪ Mr. Ngan Chamroen, Assistant to Deputy Prime Minister 	Ministry of Interior
2.6	5:00 p.m.	EU/ASAC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr. Marc Vanhemlryck, Programme Officer ▪ Mr. Kentaro Gemma, Researcher 	UNDP
3	Fri – 14 June		
3.1	10:00 a.m.	UNESCO <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr. Teruo Jinnai, Culture Programme Specialist 	UNDP
3.2	2:00 p.m.	NGOs WGWR (Working Group for Weapons Reduction) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr. Marcos Smith, Programme Advisor ▪ Mr. Lee Sotherayuth, Monitoring Officer CIDH (Cambodia Institute for Development and	UNDP

		Human Rights) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ▪ Vuth Vannav, Programme Coordinator 	
4	Sat – 15 June		
5	Sun – 16 June		
	1:00 p.m.	Departure for Pursat Province	New Thansour Hotel, Pursat
6	Mon – 17 June		
6.1	9:00 a.m.	Pursat: Executive Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provincial Governor ▪ Police Commissioner 	Pursat
6.2	11:00 a.m.	PRDC/SEILA Officials	Pursat
6.3	3:00 p.m.	Bakan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ District Mayor ▪ Inspector ▪ District Commander ▪ Police Administrator ▪ Chiefs of Commune Police 	Bakan District Office
6.4		SEILA and EU/ASAC Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr. Seng Son, Field Manager (EU-ASAC) ▪ Mr. Cheng Samnang, UNOPS CARERE, Senior Provincial Programme Advisor 	
7	Tue – 18 June		
	11:00 a.m.	Kampong Chhnang <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Deputy Provincial Governor ▪ Mr. Touch. Naroth, Police Commissioner ▪ Department of Humanitarian Affairs ▪ Department of Local Development ▪ Department of Finance and Economy ▪ Department of Planning 	Kampong Chhnang
	2:45 p.m.	Local NGOs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr. Ros Khemarath, Director, Khmer Human Resource for Development Organization (KhReDo) ▪ Mr. Ouk Sameth, Phnom Beang Knagrei Association (PNKA) ▪ Mr. Chhoeung Vuthy, VADDHANAK ▪ Ms. Thou Thavy, ADHOC ▪ Ms. Chhun Sarany, Lutheran World Federation (LWF) ▪ Mr. Yim Leang-Y, Community Capacities or Development (CCD) 	Kampong Chhnang
8	Wed – 19 June		
	10:00 a.m.	Siam Reap Province <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr. Chap Nhalyvoud, Governor, Siam Reap Province ▪ Police Commissioner PRDC/SEILA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr. Ros Chhay, UNDP/UNOPS Senior Provincial Programme Advisor 	Siam Reap
	3:00 p.m.	Local NGOs	Siam Reap

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr. Beng Sakun, Friends' Association Pioneer (FAP) ▪ Mr. Mear Thunchey, ADHOC ▪ Mr. Am Map, Kumer Youth Association (KYA) ▪ Ms. Ke Moeung, Future of Cambodian Children (FCC) ▪ Mr. Kim Viset Cambodian Community Mental Health Service ▪ Mr. Ouch Leang, LICADHO 	
9	Thu – 20 June		
	10:00 a.m.	Debriefing UNDP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr. Ladislaus Byenkya-Abwooli, Deputy Resident Representative ▪ Mr. Ernest Bautista, Governance Advisor ▪ Mr. Massoud Hedeshi, Programme Manager WGWR (Working Group for Weapons Reduction) ▪ Mr. Marcos Smith, Programme Advisor ▪ Mr. Neb Sinthay, Executive Coordinator 	UNDP
	4:50 p.m.	Departure for New York	

