



From
the People of Japan



Improvement of Disposal Capacity of Plastic Litter in Urban Provinces
ANNUAL PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT
[2025]



United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Project ID: 01003857

Award ID: 1382383

Duration: 27 February 2025 to 26 July 2027

Total Budget: USD 2,498,048.56

Implementing Partners/Responsible parties: Ministry of Environment (MoE)

Contributing Outcome (UNSDCF, CPD, RPD): The project contributes to the CPD indicator 3.2. by promoting circular economy (CE) to reduce of pollution and improved consumption behaviours and production practices

Table of Contents

Acronyms and Abbreviations	3
I. Executive Summary	4
II. Implementation Progress	4
1. Narratives	4
2. Progress Toward Project Outputs / Key Deliverables.....	13
3. Gender Mainstreaming and Women’s Empowerment.....	19
4. Capacity Development.....	19
5. Innovation.....	19
6. Environmental and Social Safeguard.....	19
7. Lessons Learned.....	20
III. Project Implementation Challenges.....	20
Updated Risks and Actions	20
IV. Financial Status and Utilisation	21

Acronyms and Abbreviations

4Rs	Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle
CE	Circular Economy
DGE	Department of Green Economy
EPR	Extended Producer Responsibility
GDEKI	General Directorate of Environmental Knowledge and Information
GDEP	General Directorate of Environmental Protection
INC	Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution
IP	Implementing Partner
KOK	Koh Kong province
LoA	Letter of Agreement
MoE	Ministry of Environment
MoT	Ministry of Tourism
NAP	National Action Plan on Plastic
PEB	Project Executive Board
PDoE	Provincial Department of Environment
PMU	Project Management Unit
PNH	Phnom Penh
PDoE	Provincial Department of Environment
RGC	Royal Government of Cambodia
RP	Responsible Party
SHV	Preah Sihanouk province
SRP	Siem Reap province
SWM	Solid waste management
TBK	Tbong Khmum Province
ToR	Terms of Reference
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEA	United Nations Environment Assembly

I. Executive Summary

The “Improvement of Disposal Capacity of Plastic Litter in Urban Provinces” project is a joint initiative between the Ministry of Environment (MoE) and the United Nation Development Programme (UNDP) in Cambodia, implemented over a 2.5-year period from 27 February 2025 to 26 July 2027.

The project responds to the growing threat of plastic pollution to Cambodia’s ecosystems, economy, and public well-being. Building on the achievements of the “Combating Marine Plastic Litter” project, the project will advance Cambodia’s leadership in tackling plastic waste by promoting the 4R framework (Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle) as a cornerstone of the country’s transition toward a circular economy. To accelerate the progress, the project focuses on strengthening enabling policies and regulatory frameworks, implementing targeted campaigns and strategic communication, and providing waste management equipment to drive behaviour change and improve waste plastic waste management systems.

Adopting a multi-stakeholder approach, the project activity engages private sector actors, NGOs, and civil society organizations to foster innovation and scale up proven circular business solutions. In parallel, knowledge generation and dissemination of best practices will support replication across cities and provinces.

Phase II will accelerate progress through enabling policies, regulatory measures, and strategic communication, complemented by equipment provision to drive behaviour change. By engaging the private sector, the project will foster innovation, mobilize finance, and scale up proven circular business models. Knowledge sharing and dissemination of best practices will ensure replication across cities and provinces.

Geographically, interventions are tailored to local contexts. In Phnom Penh, Siem Reap and Preah Sihanouk, the project prioritizes reducing single-use plastics in the hospitality, tourism, and food and beverage sectors, while piloting a voluntary Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) scheme. In peri-urban provinces, such as Kep, Kampot, Koh Kong, Tbong Khmum, efforts focus on raising public awareness and strengthen local waste management systems through equipment provision.

This annual report highlights the project’s key achievements from its first year of implementation. Noticeable progress includes results across all six project outputs, the signing of Letter of Agreement with the Ministry of Tourism (MoT) and subnational authorities in targeted cities and provinces, and the formalization of partnerships with private sector actor, TonToTon to reduce plastic leakage and implement innovative circular solutions.

II. Implementation Progress

1. Narratives

During the initial phase of implementation, the project has delivered tangible results that demonstrate both systemic change and practical impacts. Key achievements include:

Output 1: Key enabling policies and regulations developed and implemented to promote 4Rs and the use of multi-use plastic, recycling, and plastic alternatives

Policies and regulations are the key to changing people’s behaviour and embedding sustainable practices. The project is advancing the institutionalization of the 4Rs framework (Refuse, Reduce, Reuse and Recycle) by promoting multi-use plastics, discouraging single-use plastics (SUPs), and encouraging the adoption of alternatives alongside recycling systems. Three key policies instruments are currently under development, providing the framework to mainstream the 4Rs and establish the foundation for long-term sustainability.

1.1 National Action Plan Alignment with UNEA Resolution 5/14

The project supports the update of the National Action Plan (NAP) on plastic waste management, ensuring coherence with emerging global commitments. Progress has been made through alignment with the UNEA 5/14 Resolution and by building national technical knowledge to operationalize its provisions. This process not only strengthens Cambodia's policy framework but also enhances institutional capacity to deliver on international obligations while advancing the principles of the 4Rs and circular economy. Through the coordination and management by the Department of Green Economy (DGE), General Department of Policy and Strategy (GDPS) of the Ministry of Environment (MoE), a national consultant has been recruited to review and develop inception plans for the whole assignment and will submit literature review related to plastic implementation, policies, strategies, financial sources, global treaty, and initiatives to combat plastic reduction.

1.2 Sub-decree on Plastic Management

Building on the achievement from the “Combating Marine Plastic Litter in Cambodia”, the project will further review and update the sub-decree on plastic management aiming for onward submission to the Honorable Prime Minister, reflecting updates required by evolving global and national contexts. The objectives of the sub-decree are to: (1) manage and reduce the use of plastic products, (2) ensure the proper management of plastic waste, and (3) prevent and minimize plastic waste pollution on land and in waterways. The Department of Solid Waste Management, General Directorate Environmental Protection (GDEP) plays a crucial role in drafting this sub-decree under a signed Letter of Agreement with the GDPS. A national consultant is on board in close coordination and management by GDEP.

1.3 A voluntary Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) scheme

The Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) initiative is progressing on schedule, with key milestones achieved and upcoming activities firmly in place. An international EPR consultant under UNDP has been mobilized to provide technical support and ensure global best practices are adapted to Cambodia's context.

The inception report was successfully completed on 12 December 2025, setting out the roadmap for EPR implementation and clarifying roles, responsibilities, and expected outcomes. Building on this foundation, the EPR instruments and frameworks were drafted providing the initial structure for policy design, operational mechanisms, and stakeholder engagement.

Momentum continues with preparation for the first consultative workshop, scheduled for late April or May 2026. This workshop will convene government representatives and private sector stakeholders to validate the draft frameworks, strengthen ownership and discuss next steps toward operationalizing EPR in Cambodia.

Output 2: Improved awareness about the plastic crisis and its solutions among citizens and the private sector

Increased knowledge among stakeholders is necessary for successful implementation. To raise awareness of the plastic dilemma and its solutions, the project carried out a series of awareness raising initiatives targeting both public and key stakeholders.

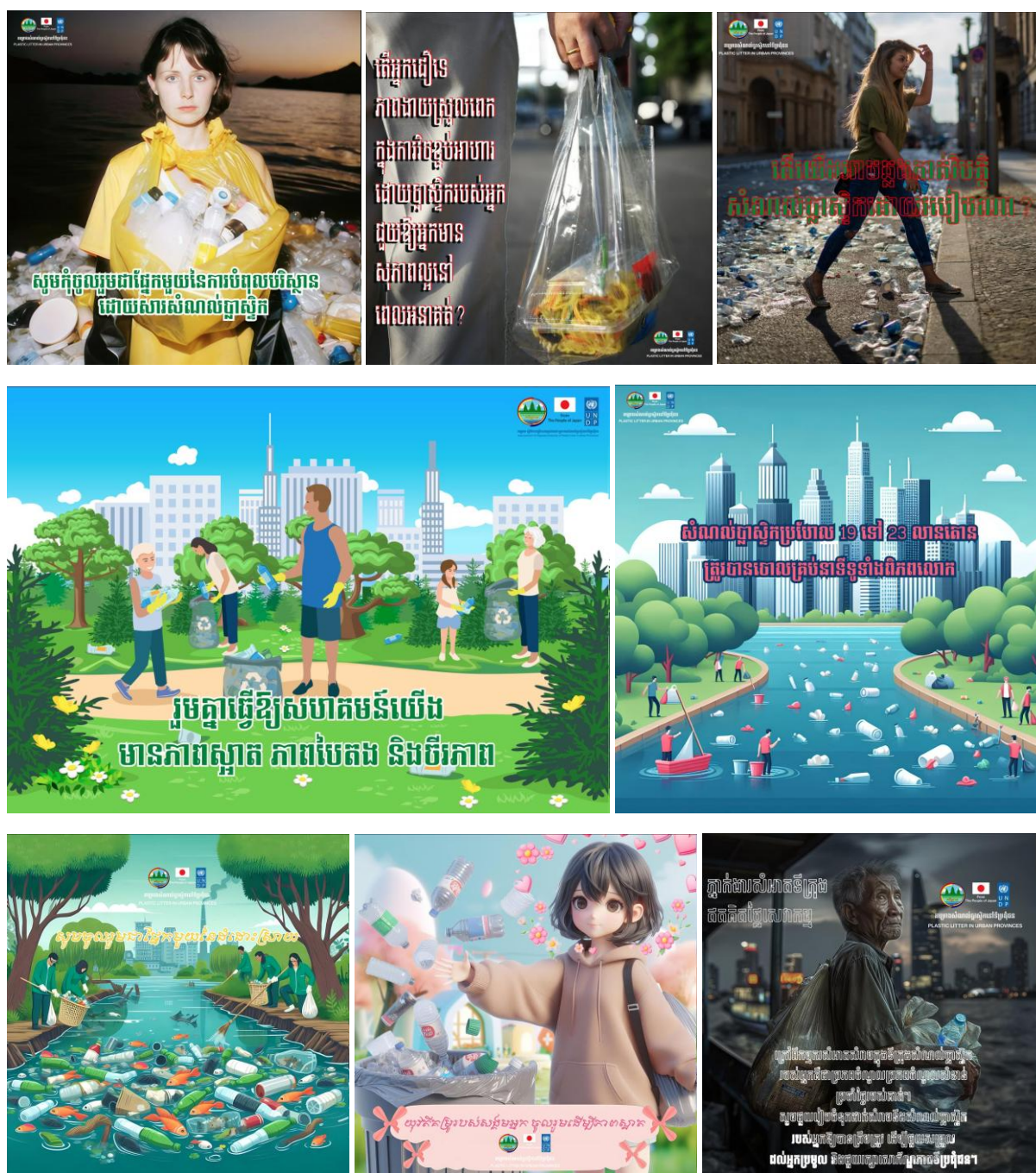
2.1 Awareness raising using social media platforms

Through social media platforms, the project actively engaged audiences by leveraging the Ministry of Environment's Facebook page (240k followers), its Telegram group (1,379 subscribers), UNDP's channels, and the Embassy of Japan's Facebook. Local newspapers and media outlets also provided coverage, amplifying the project visibility.

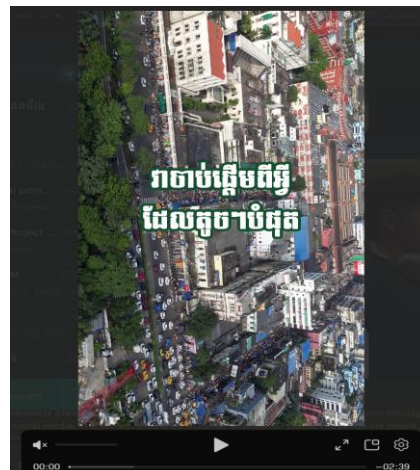
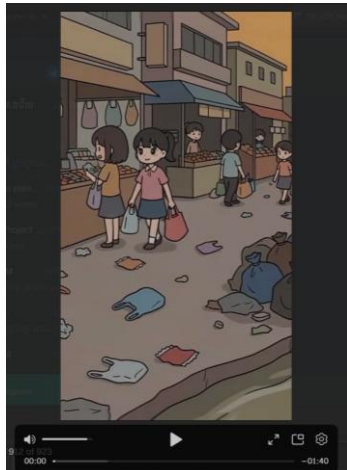
As part of these efforts, the project produced and disseminated 5 new short videos, which were reposted 55 times, reaching 12,110 viewers and generating 361 positive expressions. In addition, two short messages in poster format were shared across 173 posts, reaching 5,621 viewers and eliciting 1,151 positive expressions. Local media further contributed by publishing four articles highlighting the project launch and stakeholders' commitment to implementation.

These activities have significantly expanded outreach and strengthened public awareness of plastic waste challenges and solutions. Building on this momentum, the project will continue producing short videos and messages tailoring project stakeholders for dissemination across social media platforms, with the aim of reaching wider audiences and deepening stakeholder understanding.

Figure 1: Short messages developed



Short Videos Developed:



2.2 Outreach materials developed and disseminated

The project has developed and distributed educational and promotional materials to advance plastic reduction efforts. These include sub-decree 113 on solid waste management and 4Rs signboards, along with reusable lunch boxes, tumblers, banners for plastic campaign and eco-bags.

As of now 20 signboards (10 sub-decree 113 signboards and 10 4Rs signboards) are already installed across 10 schools in Siem Reap, Preah Sihanouk, Phnom Penh, and Tbong Khmum. Other materials were delivered during the national plastic campaign and at the training workshops for sub-national authorities on solid waste management, including 300 reusable lunch boxes, 18 banners, 300 tumblers and 300 eco-bags.

Signboards (Sub-decree 113 and 4Rs)



Banners





Tumblers and Eco-bags



Output 3: CE business models designed and operationalized in an inclusive and gender sensitive manner

3.1 Green financing and economic instruments are designed

The project has advanced collaboration with relevant ministries to pilot Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) scheme. This include drafting the EPR framework, establishing financing scheme/mechanism, and developing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Cambodia. These efforts lay the foundation for will support innovative business solutions that integrate circular economy principles. In addition, recommendations on plastic credit system positioning Cambodia to adopt financing and economic instruments that incentivize reduction, recovery and responsible management of plastic waste in Cambodia.

3.2 Implement Circular Economy measures to reduce the usage of SUPs in the hospitality sector

Progress has been made through a formalized partnership with the Ministry of Tourism (MoT), established via a signed Letter of Agreement with UNDP. This collaboration focuses on three key initiatives:

- **Eco-Business Award Programme** – designed to incentivize hotels, restaurants, and tourism operators to adopt and implement Circular Economy (CE) practices.
- **Pilot Plastic-Free Tourism Zones** – supporting the elimination of single-use plastics (SUPs) in selected destinations, while promoting plastic-free tourism experiences.

- **Digital Hub Development** – creating an online platform to raise awareness, share best practices, and strengthen collaboration among tourism stakeholders.

These measures acknowledge that tackling waste challenges goes beyond raising awareness. It requires strong systems, clear incentives, and effective execution. By embedding recovery, reduction and responsible management of plastic waste within local contexts, the project is turning gaps into opportunities. Communities are being paid, trained and equipped to lead plastic-free tourism initiatives, ensuring that the Circular Economy solutions succeed because people are at the center of change.

3.3 Livelihood of informal waste collectors is improved through integrating them into plastic value chain

Strengthening plastic value chains, promoting segregation at source and engaging private sector engagement have been identified as key to reducing waste generation at source and maximizing resource recovery. Building on this, the project has formalized a partnership with a private sector partner, TonToTon to support plastic collection while enhancing the livelihoods of informal waste collectors by integrating them into the plastic value chain. This collaboration includes:

- **Provision of capacity building training and skill development** including occupational health and safety (OHS)
- **Provision of personal protective equipment (PPE)** to improve working conditions
- **Linkages to social inclusion mechanisms**, including ID poor registration and access to basic social protection services

Currently, the project is working with TonToTon to conduct outreach to identify and map target groups. A baseline survey is underway to generate reliable and gender-disaggregated data of informal waste collectors in target areas. This data will inform inclusive programming, tailor awareness and training initiatives, and establish measurable baseline for monitoring the social-economic status of informal waste collectors.

Output 4: Plastic waste leakage reduced in target provinces

4.1 Implement circular economy measures to support waste segregation, collection and recycling

During the reporting period, the project made notable progress in strengthening school-level awareness and infrastructure for plastic reduction. Central to this effort was the installation and monitoring of water filtration systems, which directly contributed to reducing the reliance on Single-use Plastics (SUPs) while ensuring access to clean drinking water.

a) Monitoring and utilization of water filtration systems

The project team conducted field visits and ground verification to cross-check reported information on the status, functionality, usage, and operation challenges of 93 systems installed across 90 schools under the Combating Marine Plastic Litter initiative. Findings show that the majority of systems are fully operational, with schools typically running them for 12 hours daily, and some extending to 24 hours. While operating costs for water and electricity are manageable, covered through school funds and voluntary parental contribution, some common challenges include limited capacity for self-repair, difficulty accessing local technicians, and the availability of replacement filtration in the local markets. To address these challenges, the project conducted site visits, and among the 90 schools assessed, 19 (SHV requiring the most support received direct maintenance assistance from technical team, along with referral support to access services from local technicians.

b) Impact and behavioral change

The filtration systems have generated significant impact both environmentally and socially. Discussion with school principals, teachers and students confirm that plastic bottled water usage has decreased by

more than 50% among students and teachers. Instead of purchasing bottled water for drinking, most now bring reusable bottles from home to refill at schools. This shift has reduced demand for plastic bottles, bags, and disposable cups. Additionally, some students have transitioned away from sugary drinks, preferring clean, cool water from the filtration systems. This has also contributed to improving health outcomes while reducing household expenses.

c) Site assessments for expansion

To scale up interventions, the project team assessed 56 new schools across Phnom Penh, Siem Reap, Sihanoukville, Tboung Khmum and Koh Kong. Selection criteria include:

- Adequate infrastructure (clean water source and electricity)
- Management readiness and willingness to contribute to installation costs
- Commitment to building storage facilities for system protection

While all schools expressed strong interest, infrastructure limitations particularly lack of clean water sources and poor water quality (muddy or high mineral content) poses risks to system durability. To maximize donor investment, priority will be given to schools with adequate infrastructure and committed leadership, ensuring smooth implementation, reduced delays and long-term sustainability of the systems.

4.2 Knowledge and capacity of subnational government is enhanced

To strengthen subnational capacity and to improve plastic disposal capacity at the subnational level, the project worked closely with target provinces through a combination of clean-up and outreach activities, installation of collection equipment including waste bins, awareness raising and workshops. A circular economy workshop was conducted with 100 participants (28 women) in Sihanoukville, promoting plastic waste reduction for public and private sectors which is in line with the Ministry of Environment's priorities. In addition, a training workshop on solid waste management brought together 90 participants (39 women) from subnational authorities, ministry experts, and other stakeholders in Tboung Khmum province. This has provided a valuable platform to share knowledge and discuss plastic and solid waste challenges at the local level.

To institutionalize efforts, the project signed letters of agreement (LoAs) with local administration of Phnom Penh, Siem Reap and Sihanoukville to strengthen awareness and prevent plastic leakage at the subnational level. As project progresses, we have expanded subnational capacity for plastic waste management through clean-up events, outreach and infrastructure support, as well as strengthen partnerships with provincial authorities via LoAs, embedding awareness-raising into local government structures. This will also promote behavioral change by linking awareness campaigns with practical training on waste separation, recycling and circular economy principles.

- Phnom Penh: on 23 November 2025, a plastic campaign marking environmental day engaged 800 participants (463 women), including students, officials, monks, and citizens. And a follow-up training workshop on 28 November 2025 reached 250 participants (168 women) from 23 schools and 5 districts in Chroy Chong Var, focusing on waste separation, management, recycling and the 4Rs principle.
- Siem Reap: on 21 November 2025, a plastic campaign for environmental day mobilized 353 participants (189 women), raising awareness among students, officials, and the public on reducing plastic use.
- Sihanoukville: on 27 November 2025, a large-scale campaign engaged 1,300 participations (668 women), promoting environmental awareness and plastic reduction among students and the wider community.

Output 5: Gender equality promoted across the project interventions

The project prioritized the active involvement of women and girls across all events and activities. In total 3,363 people participated physically in 7 events organized by the PMU and subnational

implementers, of which 1,805 were women and girls. This includes 3 training workshops with 440 participants (235 women) and 4 plastic awareness campaigns that engaged 2,923 participants (1,570 women). These efforts ensured strong female participation and reinforced the project's commitment to gender inclusivity in addressing plastic waste challenges. The project actively promoted gender equality by ensuring the meaningful participation of women and girls across all activities. Out of 3,363 total participants, 1,805 were females, representing more than half of the engagement. Their involvement is central to the success of plastic awareness campaigns and capacity building training events, reinforcing women's leadership in advancing sustainable waste management.

Output 6: Best practices disseminated and shared

The project actively disseminated best practices and ongoing efforts through social media platforms, enhancing public visibility and engagement on plastic pollution issues. These communication activities ensured that national initiatives and project interventions reached a wider audience, fostering awareness and encouraging behavioural change. In addition, the development of strategic communication and project promotional materials aims to increase project visibility as well as to disseminate awareness raising and outreach materials more consistently to wider audience, including project video, brochure, posters and social medial handles:

- Facebook: Ministry of Environment
- Facebook: Urban Plastic Litter Solutions
- Telegram: GDPS and Ministry of Environment
- Telegram: Urban Plastic Litter Solutions
- TikTok
- Instagram: Urban Plastic Litter Solutions
- YouTube: Plastic Litter Cambodia

Through international engagement, the project supported the participation from Ministry of Environment in the intergovernmental negotiating committee (INC) process. This contribution was aligned with UNEA Resolution 5/14, which mandates the development of an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution. By facilitating Cambodia's presence in these negotiations, the project has strengthened the country's role in shaping global solutions to plastic pollution.

2. Progress Toward Project Outputs / Key Deliverables

OUTPUT 1: Key enabling policies and regulations developed to promote 4Rs				
<i>Project Output Indicators</i>	<i>Baseline</i>		<i>Target</i>	<i>Current Status</i>
	Value	Year	2025	
1.1 Updated national action plan on plastic (NAP) and progress that aligns with UNEA. <i>Measured by an updated national action plan (NAP) aligned with UNEA resolution 5/14.</i>	1	2024	1	On-track: - The consultant on board - Inception phase (report and workplan submitted and in reviewing process)
1.2 A sub-decree on plastic management is developed for further submission to the Honorable Prime Minister. <i>Measured by a sub-decree produced and finalized within the Ministry of Environment (MoE).</i>	1	2024	0	On-track: - The sub-decree consultant is on board - The Department of Solid Waste Management/General Directorate of Environmental Protection (GDEP)/ Ministry of Environment is coordinating this work under the agreed LoA with GDPS-MoE
1.3 A voluntary Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) scheme designed. <i>Measured by:</i> <i>a) EPR scheme designed for implementation with the private sector.</i> <i>b) Number of major companies using plastics enrolled in a voluntary EPR scheme to demonstrate efforts for waste collection and recycling.</i>	a) 0 b) 0	2024	a) 0 b) 0	On-track: - EPR international consultant under UNDP is on board - Inception Report: Completed (12 Dec 2025) - EPR Instruments and Frameworks: Drafted (3 Feb 2026) - First Consultative Workshop: Scheduled for late March 2026 (Government & Private Stakeholders)
PROJECT OUTPUT 2: Improved awareness about the plastic crisis and its solutions among citizens and the private sector				

<i>Project Output Indicators</i>	<i>Baseline</i>		<i>Target</i>	<i>Current status</i>
	<i>Value</i>	<i>2024</i>	<i>2025</i>	
2.1 Gender sensitive strategic communication and awareness raising (using social media and websites) is conducted. <i>Measured by the number of social media posts containing information related to project activities/issues/progress.</i>	30	2024	45	On-track: - Total: 55 posts (video), 173 posts (pic/messages) - videos: 55 posts, 12110 viewers, 361 positive expressions - Pic/Message: 173 posts, 5621 viewers, 1151 positive expressions, 4 articles from the local media
2.2 Awareness among public and private sectors on the sub-decree and EPR is raised. <i>Measured by:</i> <i>a) Number of social media messages posted.</i> <i>b) Number of newspaper articles published.</i> <i>c) National/sub-national dissemination workshops organized.</i>	a) 0 b) 0 c) 0	2024	a) 5 b) 1 c) 0	N/A To be carried forward to 2026 (link to Act 1.2 & 1.3)
2.3 Outreach material is developed and disseminated to schools and pagodas. <i>Measured by number of schools and pagodas that received outreach materials and training</i>	90	2024	20	On-track: 75 schools - Plastic campaign 1 schools with material and training 4Rs Training by PHN Administration in 23 Schools
PROJECT OUTPUT 3: CE business models designed and operationalized in an inclusive and gender-sensitive manner				

Project Output Indicators	Baseline		Target	Current status
	Value	Year	2025	
3.1 Green financing and procurement instruments (e.g., green bonds, credit guarantee, blended financing, and green procurement) are designed. <i>Measured by recommendations or a roadmap on plastic credits designed and ready for implementation in Cambodia.</i>	0	2024	0	On-track: Link to Act 1.3: EPR scheme
3.2 CE measures to reduce the usage of SUPs in the hospitality sector are adopted and implemented. <i>Measured by:</i> <i>a) Number of hotels and restaurants (in PP, SHV, and SR) implementing plastic reduction measures.</i> <i>b) Amount of plastic (metric tons) consumption reduction.</i>	a) 65 (SR+PP+SHV) b) 24.56 Tons	2024	a) 20 b) 5	On-track - CE workshop (20 hotels and restaurants were invited in SHV) - More work to be collaborated with the Ministry of Tourism (MoT) to implement CE measures to reduce SUPs in the hospitality sector
3.3 Livelihood of informal waste collectors (who are mostly women) is improved through integrating them into plastics value chain, especially in collection and recycling. <i>Measured by:</i> <i>a) Number of informal waste workers engaged in the collection of plastic waste from local communities.</i> <i>b) Amount of plastic waste collected with local communities for recycling/waste to energy</i>	a) 0 b) 3,000	2024	a) 0 b) 0	On-track Already formalized the engage with TonToTon to support plastic collection and enhance the livelihoods of informal waste collectors and integrate them into the plastic value chain through: - Provision of capacity building training for informal waste collectors - Provision of PPE - Linkage to social inclusion mechanisms

PROJECT OUTPUT 4: Plastic waste leakage reduced in target provinces				
Project Output Indicators	Baseline		Target	Current status
	Value	Year	2025	
4.1. Circular Economy measures to support waste segregation, collection and recycling are implemented (in a gender-sensitive manner). Measured by: a) Number of households in communities in target areas that receive waste bins for sorting plastic waste and recycling. b) Number of plastic free zones (e.g., Angkor Wat areas) implemented in SRP and SHV to avoid plastic waste. c) Number of schools and pagodas provided with water filtration systems, coupled with awareness raising and training activities. d) Number of previously installed water filtration systems (Marine Plastic Phase I) that received appropriate maintenance. e) Number of water dispensers provided for government officers with priority for women officers coupled with awareness raising activities. f) Number of tumblers distributed. Tumblers will be distributed to the 93 schools (from Marine Plastic Phase I) and 50 schools/pagoda to reduce PET bottle use (at least 50% distributed to women).	a) 2,100 b) 0 c) 90 d) 0 e) 0 f) 0	2024	a) 500 b) 1 c) 20 d) 30 e) 100 f) 1,000	On-track: a)n/a b)n/a c) - Visit and provide material 56 schools - Plastic campaign 1 schools with material and training 23 schools 4Rs Training by PHN d) - Visit 19 previous schools e) 150 water dispensers were procured f) Specification of tumblers was identified and will announce in Jan 2026

4.2. Knowledge and capacity of subnational governments is enhanced. Measured by the number of workshops/trainings implemented to outreach districts/communes (including women members) and enhance the knowledge of sound waste management.	11	2024	1	On-track: 7 (4 Plastic campaigns, 2 sustainable waste management and 4Rs trainings, 1 CE Workshop) 3363 participants, 1805 females
---	----	------	---	---

PROJECT OUTPUT 5: Gender equality promoted across the project interventions

<i>Project Output Indicators</i>	<i>Baseline</i>		<i>Target</i>	<i>Current status</i>
	<i>Value</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>2025</i>	
1. Inclusive CE practices are designed and implemented. Measured by: a) Best practice guidelines and policy recommendations on plastic credit to be developed b) Number of women benefitting from skill development and income generation opportunities from collection and recycling of plastic waste. c) Number of people (at least 50% women) who receive training and information materials for how to sort plastic waste and recycling. d) Number of students (girls and boys) receive information about the need to reduce plastic consumption along with tumblers.		2024	a) 0 b) 0 c) 0 d) 20,000	On track: a) n/a b) n/a c) 2 Sustainable waste management and 4Rs trainings (440, 235 females) d) 4 Plastic campaign (2923, 1570 females)

PROJECT OUTPUT 6: Best practices disseminated and shared

<i>Project Output Indicators</i>	<i>Baseline</i>		<i>Target</i>	<i>Current status</i>
	Value	Year	2025	

6.1. Gender sensitive communication materials on the project best practice to increase local knowledge sharing are disseminated. Measured by: a) Number of project brochures disseminated. b) Measured by number of project reports disseminated. c) Measured by newspaper articles published.		2024	<i>a) 0</i> <i>b) 5 (4 quarterly + 1 annual)</i> 1. <i>c) 1</i>	On track: a) 0 (1 st draft done) b) Q3 report (start August due to bank account open) and Q4 report c) 4 (Cambodia Daily, Fresh news, ThemyThemy, and TVK)
6.2. National dissemination events and workshops are organized and implemented. Measured by number of events organized to share best practices.		2024	<i>1</i>	On-track • 4 Plastic campaigns • 2 Training workshop for sub-national levels on solid waste management and 4Rs at TBK and PP • 1 CE Workshop at SHV
6.3 Regional and international workshops to disseminate practices are implemented. Measured by a submitted contribution of Cambodia's delegation to UNEA meetings for the development of an international legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution (UNEA Resolution 5/14).		2024	<i>1</i>	On-track • 1 delegate from MoE attended INC UNEA resolution on Plastic in Geneca, Switzerland in Aug 2025.

3. Gender Mainstreaming and Women's Empowerment¹

The Project aims to ensure the consideration and involvement of women and girls, who are among the most vulnerable to environmental degradation and often face inequalities in economic opportunities, representation in relevant decision-making, and the economic, environmental and public health benefits of improved plastic waste management.

The project has considered gender equality in all processes and had obtained the gender marker rating 2 by UNDP for acknowledging the roles of informal waste collectors (comprised mostly of women) in the project strategy and for fully mainstreaming gender into all project outputs. The project will seek to improve the livelihood of informal waste workers, by integrating them into the plastic value chain in a gender sensitive manner, especially in the collection and recycling of plastic waste.

The project will continue to incorporate gender issues and perspectives into the development of capacity building and awareness raising materials and activities.

4. Capacity Development²

Capacity development is one of the primary focuses of the project. It is imperative that respective government institutions develop the knowledge and skills necessary to sustain activities beyond the project duration.

To enhance the knowledge and capacity of sub-national governments in target province on project management, the PMU hosted a training on how to develop workplan, implement, monitor project activities and how to properly manage a budget. On an ongoing basis, the PMU team provides guidance to subnational implementing partners in all target provinces to ensure good project management and compliance.

The project will continue to provide technical assistance in a manner that enhances the partners' project management skills, technical knowledge and capacity.

5. Innovation

The project adopted innovation challenge modality to engage with partners and stakeholders to implement activities aimed at reducing plastic leakage into the environment and marine ecosystem. The project is collaborating with private enterprise (TonToTon) to implement household collection modality to encourage families in the communities to participate in plastic waste segregation at home, avoid plastic leakage into the environment through collecting at source. This will strengthen local community engagement in environmental protection action.

6. Environmental and Social Safeguard

To prevent and mitigate social and environmental risks to local communities, the project incorporated safeguard clauses in all Letter of Agreement (LoA) signed with Responsible Partners (RPs). These provisions require RPs to adhere to UNDP's Social and Environmental Safeguard (SES) standards throughout project implementation. As part of these commitments, RPs have to agree to establish accessible and transparent grievance redress mechanisms. They are designed to receive, address, and facilitate timely resolution of concerns and complaints raised by affected communities, ensuring accountability and promoting inclusive stakeholder engagement.

¹ Each project is gender marked. Please update in accordance to your project's gender marker.

² Project's capacity development activities aiming to build and improve national capacity (including institutional and individual capacity of the partners and beneficiaries)

7. Lessons Learned

The project achieved many key results across the six outputs in 2025 despite experiencing some delays primarily related to administrative process. Notably, the project contributed significantly to strengthening the knowledge and capacity of officers in effective project planning, design and implementation during the early stages of execution.

Several Important lessons were identified throughout the implementation as below:

- For the inception stage, it is essential for the Project Management Unit (PMU) to allocate sufficient time during the inception phase to thoroughly discuss and reach a shared understanding of project objectives, planned activities and budget allocations with sub-national governments in project targeted cities and provinces. To support this, the PMU organized a series of meetings involving all relevant institutions and departments, enabling joint review, coordination, and alignment on project activities.
- Clearly defining and communicating the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders helps avoid confusion, duplication of efforts, and delays during implementation.
- Establishing regular coordination platforms (e.g. technical team, weekly project update meetings, and communication channels (email, telegram)) early in the project ensure timely information sharing, strengthens collaboration, and supports prompt decision-making.
- Initial workplans should carefully consider administrative procedures, procurement timeline, and approval processes to minimize delays and ensure more accurate scheduling.
- Early-stage project implementation often requires adjustment. Thus, building flexibility into plans and maintaining adaptive management approach allows the PMU and partners to respond effectively to emerging challenges and changing contexts.
- Actively engaging local authorities and stakeholders from the beginning has fostered ownership, strengthened commitment, and improved sustainability of project outcomes (e.g. the outreach and engagement with targeted schools, site assessment for the installation of water filtration systems).

III. Project Implementation Challenges

Updated Risks and Actions

No.	Potential Risks	Countermeasures	Status
1.	Site assessments for the installation of water filtration systems require significant time and coordination with sub-national administrations and school leadership	Prioritize schools with adequate infrastructure and committed leadership to ensure smooth implementation and long-term sustainability of the water filtration systems. This will strengthen efficiency, reduce delays, and maximize the impact of donor investments by focusing resources where they can deliver the greatest and most sustainable results.	Under implementation
2	Limited sub-national capacity slows project implement, taking time for them to understand the administration and financial process	Provide orientation and instruction with regular support from PMU	Under implementation
3	Lengthy process to open sub-bank accounts for IPs leads to delays in implementation	Provide IPs with guidance and assistance to ensure complete and accurate submissions, reducing back-and-forth with banks and closely follow-up.	Under implementation

4	Current border conflict delays the implementation of some intervention by IPs in Siem Reap, Koh Kong, for example the plastic campaign where public gathering is required.	Adjust implementation timelines and prioritize activities that can proceed. The project continues to monitor situations and adopt appropriate measures (e.g. online meetings, online call) in response to changing circumstances.	Under implementation
---	--	---	----------------------

Updated Project Issues and Actions

Issue 1: Site assessments for the installation of water filtration systems require significant time and coordination with sub-national administrations and school leadership

Actions taken: Prioritize schools with adequate infrastructure and committed leadership to ensure smooth implementation and long-term sustainability of the water filtration systems. This will strengthen efficiency, reduce delays, and maximize the impact of donor investments by focusing resources where they can deliver the greatest and most sustainable results.

Issue 2: Limited sub-national capacity slows project implement, taking time for them to understand the administration and financial process

Actions taken: Provide orientation and instruction with regular support from PMU

Issue 3: lengthy process to open sub-bank accounts for IPs leads to delays in implementation

Actions taken: Provide IPs with guidance and assistance to ensure complete and accurate submissions, reducing back-and-forth with banks and closely follow-up.

Issue 4: Current border conflict delays the implementation of some intervention by IPs in Siem Reap, Koh Kong, for example the plastic campaign where public gathering is required.

Actions taken: Adjust implementation timelines and prioritize activities that can proceed. The project continues to monitor situations and adopt appropriate measures (e.g. online meetings, online call) in response to changing circumstances.

IV. Financial Status and Utilisation

Table 1: Contribution overview [27 February 2025 – 31 December 2025]

Donor Name	Contributions		CONTRIBUTIONS BALANCE
	Committed [In USD]	Received [In USD]	
Government of Japan	2,498,048.56	2,498,048.56	-
Total	2,498,048.56	2,498,048.56	-

Table 2: Annual Expenditure by Activity [Project started: 27 February- 31 December 2025]

Activities- Description	Approved AWP 2025 [Revision G01]	Actual Expenditure [In USD]			Balance [In USD]	Delivery [%]
		Gov't [Disbursed]	UNDP [Disbursed]	Total		

Output 1: Key enabling policies and regulations developed to promote 4Rs	74,199.24	3,514.97	37,671.13	41,186.10	33,013.14	56%
Output 2: Improved awareness about the plastic crisis and its solutions among citizens and the private sector	115,830.54	28,043.45	13,505.41	41,548.86	74,281.68	36%
Output 3: Priority business models for plastic recycling and alternatives operationalized	123,231.24	35,321.09	20,127.17	55,448.26	67,782.98	45%
Output 4: Plastic waste leakage reduced in target provinces	142,799.76	65,070.11	16,188.74	81,258.85	61,540.91	57%
Output 5: Gender equality promoted	45,254.16	-	3,992.66	3,992.66	41,261.50	9%
Output 6: Best practices disseminated and shared	32,781.24	1,050.00	16,755.66	17,805.66	14,975.58	54%
Project management	213,713.64	40,782.39	88,477.84	129,260.23	84,453.41	60%
TOTAL	747,809.82	173,782.01	196,718.61	370,500.62	377,309.20	50%

Table 3: Cumulative Expenditure by Activity [Project start: 27 February- 31 December 2025]

Activities - Description	Total All Budgets [2025-2027] [Revision G01]	Cumulative Expenditure [In USD]			Balance	Delivery
		Gov't [Disbursed]	UNDP [Disbursed]	Total	[In USD]	[%]
Output 1: Key enabling policies and regulations developed to promote 4Rs	234,095.40	3,514.97	37,671.13	41,186.10	192,909.30	18%
Output 2: Improved awareness about the plastic crisis and its solutions among citizens	387,012.60	28,043.45	13,505.41	41,548.86	345,463.74	11%

and the private sector						
Output 3: Priority business models for plastic recycling and alternatives operationalized	327,364.20	35,321.09	20,127.17	55,448.26	271,915.94	17%
Output 4: Plastic waste leakage reduced in target provinces	863,470.80	65,070.11	16,188.74	81,258.85	782,211.95	9%
Output 5: Gender equality promoted	98,787.60	-	3,992.66	3,992.66	94,794.94	4%
Output 6: Best practices disseminated and shared	76,523.40	1,050.00	16,755.66	17,805.66	58,717.74	23%
Project management	510,794.56	40,782.39	88,477.84	129,260.23	381,534.33	25%
TOTAL	2,498,048.56	173,782.01	196,718.61	370,500.62	2,127,547.94	15%