



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATION RELIGION KING

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**Cambodia's Response and Recovery in
the COVID-19 Pandemic:
Build-back Better towards UHC**

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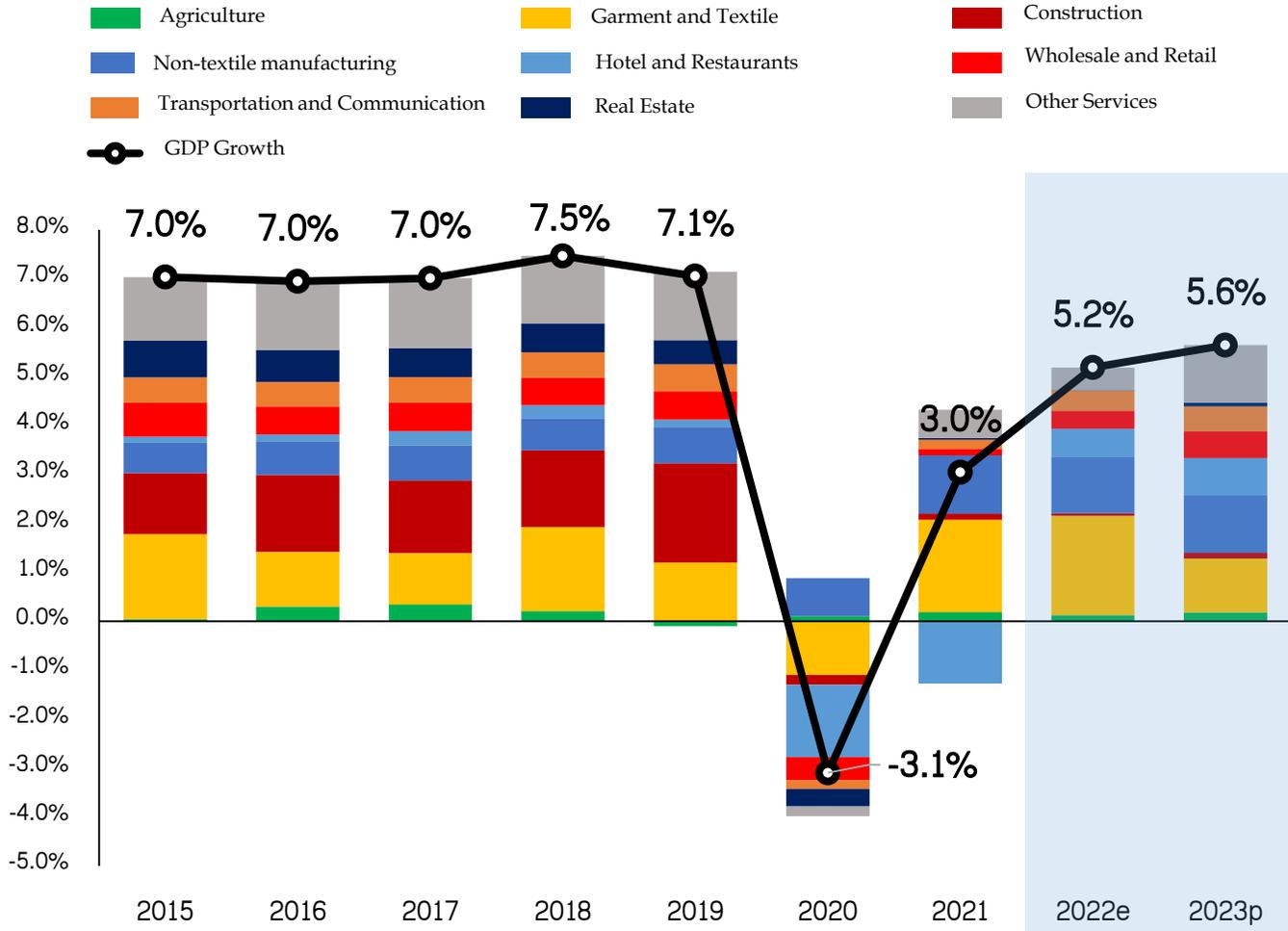
Towards Universal Health Coverage (UHC)



1. Cambodia's Economic Performance and Outlook

While the GDP reached minus in 2020, the RGC had to facilitate the country to embrace the "new normal" and to "re-open" the economy and society safely.

Contribution to GDP Growth by Sector



Key Growth Sectors



Tourism



Manufacturing:
(garment & non-garment)



Agriculture



2. Fiscal Status During the COVID-19 Crisis (1)

The Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) has:

- ❖ Introduced a total number of **TEN Rounds** of intervention measures for the most affected sectors/ stakeholders (*Garment, Tourism, Aviation, Poor and Vulnerable families*) in order to:
 - Reduce impacts on the socio-economic performance and risks of large scale COVID-19 transmission into communities.
 - Help restore and promote business recoveries, aiming at creating socio-economic immunity as COVID-19 evolves.
 - Alleviate the daily burdens of poor and vulnerable families.
- Through: **Fiscal Measures, Financial Assistance Measures, Health and Social Assistance Schemes.**



Intervention Package (million USD):



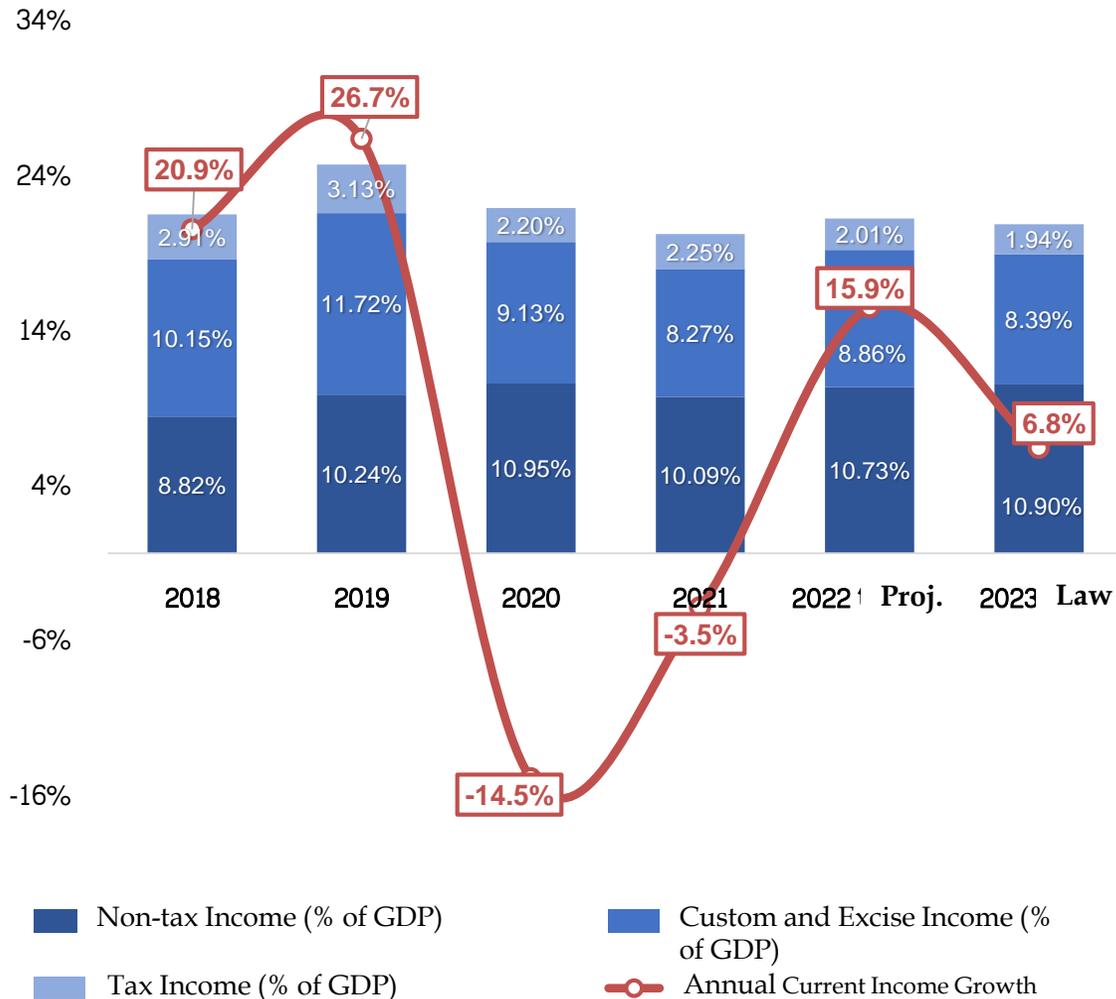
- **Fight against COVID-19**
- **Maintain people's lives and business stability**
- **Support post-crisis economic recovery strategy and program**



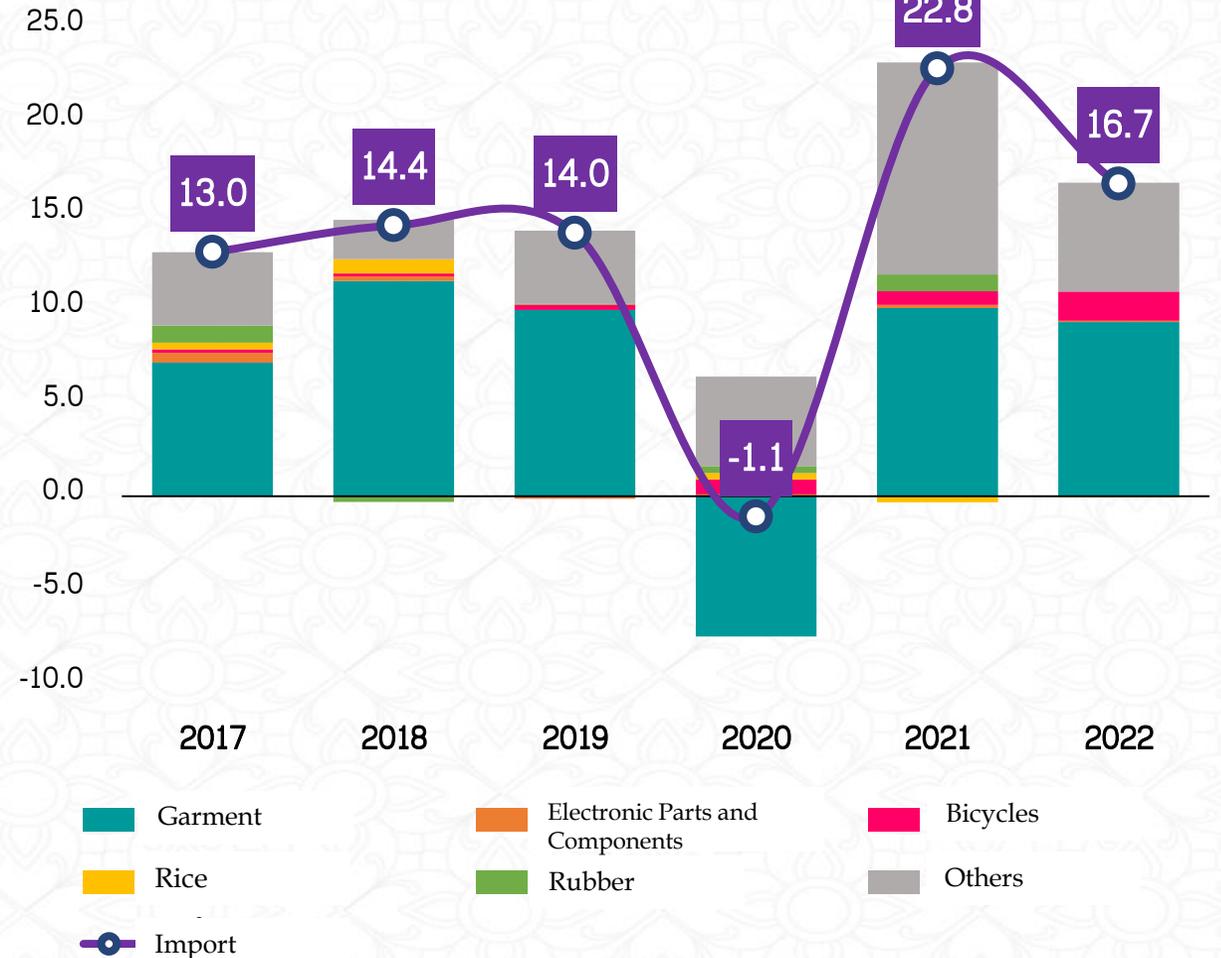
2. Fiscal Status During the COVID-19 Crisis (2)

While Cambodia faced such fiscal pressure due to the Intervention measures, it also faced a decline in income.

Annual Current Income Growth



Export Growth (%)



Source: National Institute of Statistic (2015-2020) and Ministry of Economy and Finance (2021-2023)



2. Fiscal Status During the COVID-19 Crisis (3)

Supports from DPs were much-needed:

JICA

25 billion JPY (Phase 1)
20 billion JPY (Phase 2)

**“COVID-19 Crisis Response
Emergency Support Loan
”**

180 million JPY

Technical Cooperation
Project to Strengthen
Capacity of COVID-19
Response in Cambodia
(Provision of medical equipment and
others required)

RGC

Policy Action being Facilitated by Co-financing

- (i) Continuing to provide timely and targeted relief to the affected population**
- (ii) Facilitating robust recovery through structural reforms**
- (iii) Building resilience against future economic shocks**
- (iv) Emergency (medical) response to COVID-19**
- (v) Strengthening of health system**

Other Supports from DPS

ADB

WB

China

EDCF (from S Korea)

EU



3. Policy Direction: Prioritization (1)

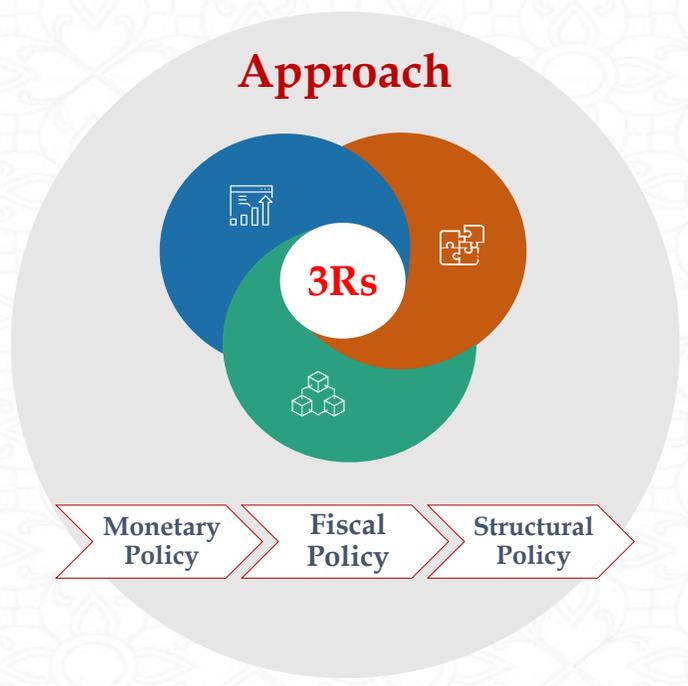
The Strategic Framework and Programs for Economic Recovery in the Context of Living with COVID-19 in a New Normal 2021-2023 (ERP 2021-23)



Objective

To revive Cambodia's economy back on the path of pre-crisis growth with sustainability, resiliency and inclusiveness.

Approach



Pillar 1:
Recovery

By stimulating the growth of key sectors, pre-crisis drivers, to return to the path of growth while further promoting potential sectors as new drivers.

Pillar 2:
Reform

By continuing to introduce key structural reform measures to improve the environment and trade facilitation for investments and businesses.

Pillar 3:
Resilience

By strengthening readiness and response to ensure the sustainability and inclusiveness of socio-economic development, as well as to cope with similar diseases or crises that may erupt in the future.



3. Policy Direction: Prioritization (2)

Will Focus on Building Resilience...

Policy Priorities

Resilience of the Public Sector

Resilience of the ability to respond to the needs and urgency of the socio-economy, and the ability to mobilize all momentums and resources to realize common goal.

Economic Resilience

Resilience in the economy, in terms of diversification and enhancing competitiveness, leading the economy to resist against any uncertainty and negative consequences, from both external and internal factors.

Financial Resilience

- (1) Resilience of the fiscal system with efficient revenue collection and targeted expenditures,
- (2) Resilience of the financial system (banking & non-banking) with proper risk management and is able to resist against any negative consequences .

Social and Human Capital Resilience

- (1). Resilience of the education system, proving knowledge and skills, matching with socio-economic needs,
- (2). Resilience of people's participation in society
- (3). Resilience of the health system and social protection system.

Environmental and Climate Resilience

Resilience to climate change, such as global warming, changes in river flows, and natural disasters such as floods and droughts.



4. Toward Universal Health Coverage (UHC)

***Three axes of UHC: Population Coverage, Service Coverage, and Financial Protection.**

- A road map to UHC, to ensure equitable access to quality health services for all citizens, currently being developed by the National Social Protection Council (NSPC).
- The country's social protection schemes, consisting mainly of National Social Security Fund (NSSF) and Health Equity Fund (HEF), covering approximately 40% of the population with basic medical services. The coverage would be enhanced further.
- Selected provincial hospitals would be upgraded to Regional Hospitals, in order to mitigate regional disparities in healthcare services between the national and sub-national levels.



Conclusion...

- The COVID-19 pandemic imposed a national crisis, truly requiring various collaborative efforts. Indeed, the RGC needed the cooperation from the public, close inter-ministerial communications (e.g., MEF-MoH), and well-coordinated international cooperation.
- AT the positive side, the pandemic has created opportunities, accelerating necessary governmental reforms and promoting digital solutions.
- Close communications between MEF and MOH through urgent COVID-19 responses created a strong foundation of cooperation for the future, especially, further effective investments for health, for instance **“Build-back Better towards UHC”**.



Thank You!