Fishery resources in Cambodia are not fully valorized; the production remains mostly destined for domestic consumption with a low level of value addition with limited export activities due to poor competitiveness. Post-harvest activities are still dominated by small-and micro-scale productions which are generally informal and non-competitive businesses.

However, there is a considerable potential to increase the contribution of the fisheries sector to the national economy through improvement in the value chain. The expansion of regional markets and increasing demand, both domestically and for export, will create opportunities for the sector to grow.

Contribution of the fisheries sector to the socio-economic development in Cambodia:

**Livelihood**
Around 40% of the population relying on it for livelihood and sustenance

**GDP**
20% to agricultural GDP

**Employment**
Around 33,000 person employed, majority are women working through various post-harvest fisheries activities

**Nutrition and food security**
through provision of micronutrient and quality protein
With support of the European Union, the CAPFISH Capture: Post-harvest fisheries development project is implemented by UNIDO in coordination with the Fisheries Administration and the private sector participants, universities, and support institutions.

The EU provides the budget support to strengthen the counterparts’ implementing capacities, while the UNIDO’s intervention is designed to help building counterparts’ technical and institutional capacity.

Sustainability is at the core of every stage of the project to ensure a long-lasting impact of the achieved results after the completion of the project. The project is designed from the outset to transfer know-how and technical expertise to the local institutions and organizations. Through upgrading the private sector capacities, it is expected to achieve improved recognition of Cambodia fish products, improved market access, increased investments in the sector and overall improved competitiveness.
Support the Competent Authority for delivering an efficient food safety official control system in post-harvest fisheries, harmonizing Cambodian products with food safety standards and international market requirements. This could trigger the expansion of formal exports to regional and international markets including the EU.

Support innovations in fishery products and processing technology through networking of institutes, improving research capacities and skills development to attract more entrepreneurs and investments into the fisheries sector.

Support to post-harvest fisheries will focus on innovative and motivated operators in the value chain. This will integrate all chains of suppliers and services to ensure food safety compliance throughout the value chains to enhance business competitiveness.
OUR ACTIVITIES

01. Strengthening Food Safety Official Control

- Establish official control framework, mechanisms and tools
- Enhance institutional capacity and build pool of qualified fishery officers and official inspectors
- Implement Cambodia Quality Seal followed by official control at private sector operations to comply with the international food safety requirements
- Strengthen the support services for competent authority through supporting national laboratory resources and testing capacity

02. Supporting Fishery Private Sector

- Support to small, medium and large enterprises involved in post-harvest fisheries for upgrading the infrastructure, equipment, processes, market linkages and product diversification and facilitate access to appropriate technologies
- Enhance the capacity of Financial Institutions and Business Development Service providers support MSMEs and to achieve the improved performance of the VC actors
- Partner with finance institutions to facilitate access to finance, disburse the VC investment support through a blended-financing model
- Improve competitiveness through the implementation of food safety system and certification; the enhancement of entrepreneurial, technical and management knowledges and required skills

03. Enhancing Innovation and R&D

- Support post-secondary and higher education institutions for knowledge enhancement on post-harvest food technology, among students and faculties
- Enhance R&D capacity of Universities for promoting innovation through developing and transferring technologies for products and services to serve the post-harvest fishery industry
- Establish Food Technology Platform networking amongst value chain actors as well as academic networks and Professional associations for better access to resources and knowledge and partnerships
- Linking the national institutions with businesses for technologies or services adoption as well as with existing national incubators for commercializing new products or services

04. Ensuring Gender Equality and Environmental Compliance

- Support gender equality and women empowerment in fishery post-harvest activities
- Ensure compliance to environment and social standards
CAPFISH-CAPTURE PROJECT, co-funded by the European Union, is UNIDO’s flagship programme within the framework of Programme for Country Partnership in Cambodia (PCP).