1. Background

One of the key objectives of the Busan Action Plan on Statistics (BAPS) is to increase resources for statistical systems. Continued investment is necessary to break the cycle of neglect and disuse of statistics. Government investment on statistics should be the primary source of financial support to national statistical systems (NSS). However, development partners’ support remains essential in fuelling critical statistical activities at the country level.

To increase financing of statistical systems, it is first necessary to have good documentation and better understanding of the sources, levels, and types of financing received by the NSS. It is also important to have in place a monitoring system to track investments and progress in the financing of statistics.

In 2006, the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21) initiated the “Light Reporting Exercises” which aimed at generating information on the extent of support to statistics, both technical and financial, provided by multilateral and bilateral development partners. This exercise was later mainstreamed into the regular program of the PARIS21 Secretariat as the Partner Report on Support to Statistics (PRESS).

In 2011, PARIS21 launched the Country Report on Support to Statistics (CRESS) in Africa following the concept of PRESS but tailored it to country level reporting of support to statistics from various sources such as government, development partners, and other entities. The CRESS exercise was done in collaboration with the statistical authorities of Cameroon, Ethiopia, Malawi, and Senegal. The pilot exercises in Africa helped develop a tool to identify the amount and sources of funding committed to the NSS as well as the types of statistical activities being financed.

Statistical systems in developing countries may significantly benefit from the information the CRESS generates to aid them in better planning of their statistical development. The increased demand for statistics in the implementation of the Agenda 2030 on sustainable development will necessitate more than ever the prioritization of statistical activities as resources become more limited. To
expand the CRESS as a tool to aid statistical offices and statistical systems to better plan for national statistical development and increase resources for statistics, PARIS21 is supporting countries in Asia to document their statistical financing practices and have a better understanding of the resource requirements.

2. Cambodia context

Cambodia in recent years has made significant strides in improving its NSS by institutionalizing legal, organizational/institutional, and technical mechanisms that guide and govern statistical coordination, operations, and reporting.

The Statistics Law of 2005 has significantly redefined the NSS into a more systematically organized and integrated system with clear governance mechanisms and institutional accountabilities for statistics development and operations in government. The Law has in particular recognized the central role of the National Institute of Statistics (NIS) not only as the primary data producer but also in parallel the authority and coordinator for ensuring the production, quality assurance, reporting, and dissemination of designated statistics by the different responsible ministries and agencies.

The Statistics Law has also laid down the foundation for better planning of statistical development through the formulation of the Statistics Master Plan (SMP) 2008-2015. A midterm review (MTR) of the SMP in 2012 revealed that despite significant efforts, challenges have remained and several key areas for improvement have to be addressed including the need for increased investment and better financing of both regular and developmental statistical activities. The MTR included an analysis of funding for statistics covered by the SMP during the period in review which showed a huge funding gap and heavy dependence on development partners and donors. While the same report highlighted the increased share of government funding to NIS from 25% to 33% for the period 2009-2011, it also pointed out that government share of total funding was much less for the NSS.

The preparation of the CRESS Cambodia comes at the heels of an earlier initiative which produced the Roadmap for the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) of Cambodia and at a strategic period as the said roadmap gets underway. The CRESS exercise will also provide an opportunity to see what changed in terms of funding for statistics since the SMP MTR.

3. Objectives

The ultimate objective of the CRESS initiative in Cambodia is to improve the financing of the national statistical system through better statistical development and expenditure planning.

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1 The 2012 Mid Term Review of the SMP was carried out by the NIS with support from the Statistics Coordinating Committee and various ministries and agencies of the Royal Government as part of a Sida supported institutional capacity building project. The MTR was approved by the Statistics Advisory Council of Cambodia on 30 May 2012.
Annex A

Specifically, the CRESS project aims to draw more concrete political support and commitment towards increased and sustainable country investment in statistics and to promote more rational and harmonized external assistance for statistics by

1. providing insights on past and current financing of the national statistical system;
2. assessing future financing requirements and priorities and inquiring on how national expenditure planning for statistics could be improved;
3. analysing factors that facilitate or hinder support to statistics and the measurement of support to statistics; and
4. understanding the rationale for financing statistics by development partners and donors, and seeking recommendations for better coordinated financing plans and strategies.

4. Methodology

The methodology for the CRESS Cambodia is adapted from the generic CRESS methodology developed by PARIS21 and benefitted from the experience and insights in the preparation of CRESS Philippines in 2015.

4.1 Organizing the CRESS Project team

As the CRESS is intended to be a country-led exercise, the formation of a team that will guide, manage and undertake the activities to produce and report the results is critical. The team should comprise a steering or coordinating committee and a technical group preferably tapping mechanisms and resources that are already in place in the NSS. It is therefore recommended that the existing Statistics Coordinating Committee chaired by the NIS Director General be requested to oversee the CRESS Cambodia initiative, specifically, to provide direction, resolve issues, and review the findings and recommendations.

The NIS designated team and focal person shall take on the responsibility of developing/adapting the CRESS methodology and tools, coordinate and carry out the data collection, processing, and validation, perform data analysis, and prepare the report with guidance and assistance from consultants and PARIS21.

4.2 Launching forum

As in many other countries, the Cambodia national statistical system involves multiple stakeholders comprising institutions and individuals that collect, manage, disseminate, and use statistics for policy, plan, and program formulation, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation. These stakeholders are therefore de facto sources of information on the financing of and investment in statistical activities.

The launching forum is a critical step in promoting appreciation of CRESS among stakeholders and in ensuring support for the preparation of the pilot CRESS and the institutionalization of
Annex A

CRESS as a key mechanism for periodic monitoring and evaluation of the national statistical system.

4.3 Scope of the data

Statistics is produced, disseminated, and used across many sectors. It is thus important that data on financing of all types of statistical activities be collected systematically from all relevant institutions that comprise the entire national statistical system.

a. Types of institutional resources

The CRESS Cambodia will make use of data on both commitment (or approved budget) and expenditure representing financial, technical, or material inputs/support from national and external sources for the functioning of the national statistical system. Specifically,

- **national resources** are financial resources used/intended to support the organizational requirements and statistical operations of the national (government) statistical system — the national statistical office or authority, organic or designated statistical units of government ministries and agencies that produce designated statistics, other government agencies that collect and report official statistics, and state institutions that provide education and training on statistics; and

- **external resources** are grants, loans, or aid provided by development partners or donors, private institutions and nongovernment organizations as targeted support for statistical developmental activities of the national statistical system through specific or group of government ministries/agencies/institutions. Some of these resources support standalone statistical development programs or projects while some support statistical activities that are components of a bigger development project/program, e.g., monitoring and evaluation.

Information on external resources may support or complement data from the PRESS\(^2\).

b. Types (classification) of statistical activities

The CRESS will cover all funding for all types of statistical activities including but not limited to

- regular and periodic censuses and surveys,
- administrative data collection,
- compilation of frameworks and indicators,

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\(^2\) PRESS Methodology, December 2009, PARIS21
Annex A

- data processing and quality assurance,
- data dissemination and communication,
- maintenance and updating of information systems and databases,
- statistical education and training and other human resource development activities,
- policy and standards formulation, planning, and coordination, and
- monitoring and evaluation.

The CRESS will also account for financing of special development projects such as development and improvement of statistical/data frameworks, collection/capture instruments, and methodologies, development or major improvement of data/information systems and applications, human resource development programs, among others.

The UNECE Classification of Statistical Activities which provides information on the types of statistics/statistical activities such as demographic, social, economic, environment and multi-domain statistics as well as data collection, processing, dissemination and analysis will serve as guide in identifying the types of statistical activity or domains of statistical areas being/to be financed.

c. Types/items of expenditure

All expenditure items for regular or recurring statistical activities as well as periodic or multiple year-interval statistical activities and special projects shall be accounted for according to basic accounting categories as follows:

- **personal services** which include salaries and wages, and other personnel emoluments of statistical personnel;
- **maintenance and other operating expenses** of statistical agencies/institutions and units; and
- **capital outlay** or investments for physical and technological infrastructure, systems, and equipment, *e.g.*, **construction of building for office and data operations (such as processing and dissemination centres), acquisition of computers, electronic devices, and software, data/information system and application development or upgrading, connectivity, etc.**

Expenditure for statistics might be difficult to identify and quantify in some cases where the statistical activity is embedded in or when the statistical output is a direct result of a regular program. Assumptions, caveats, and limitations will be documented to explain or clarify inclusion or exclusion.

d. Temporal coverage
The CRESS shall be both backward- and forward-looking and shall be consistent with the period covered by the PRESS as follows:

- funding in the last three years, 2013-2016 and
- future funding for the next three years, 2017-2019.

### 4.4 Analytical framework

An analytical framework will be developed to explain the ‘theory of change’ behind the CRESS, highlight the key research issues and questions that need to be addressed towards achieving the intended outcomes, and provide some guide on the structure, focus, and flow of analysis. The framework also aims to further clarify or articulate concepts, definitions, coverage, and classifications; data sources or respondents; and assumptions, caveats, and limitations in measurement.

The analytical framework should help refine the questionnaires and other related instruments and may evolve as new content or measurement issues emerge during the exercise.

### 4.5 Data collection, transmission, validation, and processing

Data on financing of statistics will be collected primary through questionnaires to be filled out by identified stakeholders/respondents in the NSS. Appropriate concepts, definitions, metadata, and instructions are included in the questionnaire to guide respondents and the NIS CRESS Project team. Respondents and key informants shall have been carefully identified prior to the distribution of the questionnaire.

The questionnaire in English and/or Khmer versions shall be pilot tested among NIS and a few selected ministries and agencies to ensure clarity and ease of understanding of the questions and instructions. It is important to acknowledge and consider the benefits of using the local language in ensuring accurate responses. The final version (if warranted by the pilot test results) of the questionnaire will be distributed to respondents via e-mail and/or official communication with personal/courier delivery.

Other methods of data collection and validation (e.g., key informant interview, focus group discussion) or sources of data (e.g., government budget documents and settlement reports, agency annual reports, financial statements, etc.) may be considered to validate, complement, augment, or support the primary source. Follow-up and bilateral consultations with respondents may also be conducted.

Responses will be processed and data encoded by the designated country administrator into the CRESS database specifically designed to facilitate data recording, pre-processing, and management. Standard/common basic quality assurance processes will be administered to validate responses/data.
Annex A

Appropriate data transmission protocol based on available technology and capacity will be considered to facilitate the transmission of CRESS data from the respondents and data sources to the CRESS database and/or its administrator. At the least, e-mail transmission of the filled questionnaire (in MS Excel format) will be encouraged.

4.6 Data analysis and report preparation

In general, the analysis of results shall be guided by the key questions and indicators defined in the analytical framework. Predefined data tables dynamically linked to the CRESS database will provide quick information relating to key questions and indicators and hence facilitate analysis and conclusion.

The draft/initial report shall be prepared initially using a pre-agreed format and modified or improved depending on the actual results. The draft/initial report must be reviewed and vetted by the steering or coordinating committee before presentation to a wider audience for validation. The final report must be approved by the highest relevant authority on statistics prior to dissemination.

4.7 Dissemination and communication of CRESS; documentation

As envisioned, the CRESS should be able to provide insights on the past and current financing of statistics in the Cambodia with the hope that appropriate steps be considered if not outright initiated to address challenges and implement relevant recommendations. The dissemination and communication of the CRESS Cambodia should be premised on promoting learning towards action in order to achieve the long term outcomes of increased investment and improved financing for statistics. An appropriate communication plan will be designed for implementation by NIS.

All data and information resources, including databases, records, files, documents, collected and compiled as well as outputs produced during the CRESS exercise shall be deposited and archived at the NIS for future reference.

5. Expected Outputs

5.1 CRESS following a recommended outline
5.2 Database (data transmission protocols) in the form of an Excel file
5.3 Co-ordination arrangement on financing statistics in the country (between and among NSS stakeholders, decision makers in government, and development partners)
5.4 Filled-out CRESS questionnaires

6. Institutional Framework (Cooperative Arrangement between Cambodia and PARIS21)
Annex A

The CRESS will be conducted and implemented by the NIS, with the commitment of its Director General. The conduct of CRESS activities should be within the existing coordination mechanism in the Cambodia statistical system. Should an ad hoc steering group need to be created, such group should be composed of NSS stakeholders, ministries involved in financing/funding statistics (e.g., Budget, Finance, Treasury, Planning, etc.) and development partners. A focal person from NIS will need to be appointed who shall be responsible in coordinating all CRESS activities and would be directly working with PARIS21 consultants.

To guide the CRESS work,

PARIS21 shall:
1. Engage international and national consultants to assist and guide the country in the CRESS activities
2. Update the CRESS methodology to adapt to the needs and requirements of the country
3. Develop guidelines for the CRESS report in consultation with the country
4. Provide funding for the data collection and in launching and dissemination meetings
5. Fund the publication of the CRESS report and disseminate results via its website

NIS shall:
1. Provide technical support and coordination of CRESS activities
   • Review, comment and provide inputs in the CRESS methodology for Cambodia statistical system
   • Adapt/revise the CRESS questionnaires and guidelines for accomplishing the questionnaires provided by PARIS21, including translation to local language, if necessary
   • Review and approve the assessment framework prepared by the PARIS21 consultants
   • Collect data on statistical financing with support of PARIS21 consultants
   • Compile and process questionnaires with the assistance of PARIS21 national consultant and guidance of international consultant
   • Facilitate the establishment of a database and data transmission protocols on CRESS
   • Conduct validation exercises on the data collected, with assistance of the national consultant and guidance from the international consultant
   • Assist PARIS21 consultants in the analysis of the CRESS results, as necessary
   • Assist PARIS21 consultants in the preparation of the draft and final reports on CRESS
   • Validate and review preliminary results of the CRESS and present in a forum with stakeholders
   • Secure approval of the final report from relevant national authorities, where necessary
   • Provide PARIS21 copy of the final report for publication
   • Disseminate and communicate the results of the CRESS

2. Take charge of logistics and administrative requirements
   • Appoint a focal person from NIS to lead in the CRESS exercise who will work closely with the consultants and shall liaise with PARIS21 Task Team Manager
   • Identify NSS stakeholders and development partners (those currently involved in financing statistics) to be part of the CRESS exercises
Annex A

- Coordinate meetings and consultations with key NSS stakeholders (line ministries, development partners, and other providers of statistics financing)
- Organize the launching meeting and dissemination forum
- Submit financial report to PARIS21 after completion of the project

7. Proposed Timelines/Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Schedule</th>
<th>Responsibility Center</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Preparatory work</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1. Sending of formal letter and concept note</td>
<td>Feb 1-26</td>
<td>PARIS21 and NIS</td>
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<tr>
<td>to NIS regarding the CRESS activity and</td>
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<tr>
<td>meeting between PARIS21 and NIS to discuss</td>
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<tr>
<td>the CRESS Concept and preparatory work</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Preparatory activities</td>
<td>Jul – Aug</td>
<td>PARIS21 and NIS</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Engagement of PARIS21 Consultants</td>
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<td>• Contract preparation and fund transfer</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Framework and tools adaptation</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Updating of CRESS methodology to adapt to</td>
<td>Aug 15 – 29</td>
<td>PARIS21 Consultants and NIS</td>
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<tr>
<td>country needs and requirements (initial</td>
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<tr>
<td>review of Cambodia’s general budget/expenditure process and structure,</td>
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<td>review of questionnaires, adaptation of the</td>
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<td>UNECE classification of activities to country</td>
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<td>setting, understanding Cambodia’s designated</td>
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<td>statistics in relation to agencies’ basic</td>
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<td>planning practices, pilot-testing, etc.)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Outputs</strong>: (a) updated CRESS Methodology</td>
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<tr>
<td>for Cambodia in English; (b) adapted</td>
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<tr>
<td>questionnaire and guidelines in English</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Translation of questionnaires and</td>
<td>Sep 1 – 12</td>
<td>National consultant, NIS</td>
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<tr>
<td>guidelines into Khmer; testing of</td>
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<tr>
<td>questionnaire</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Outputs</strong>: (a) updated CRESS Methodology</td>
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<tr>
<td>for Cambodia in Khmer; (b) adapted questionnaire and guidelines in Khmer;</td>
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<tr>
<td>(c) preliminary list of stakeholders/respondents</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Distribution of questionnaires to</td>
<td>Sep 13-16</td>
<td>NIS with assistance from National</td>
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<tr>
<td>stakeholders/respondents</td>
<td></td>
<td>Consultant</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CRESS launching and data collection</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Preparations for the launching forum;</td>
<td>Sep 19-22</td>
<td>NIS and PARIS21 Consultants</td>
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<tr>
<td>international consultant’s mission</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Final review/finalization of questionnaires</td>
<td>Sep 19 – 23</td>
<td>NIS and PARIS21 Consultants</td>
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<td>and guidelines; discussion of database,</td>
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<tr>
<td>analytical tables, and report outline</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Outputs</strong>: (a) final CRESS Methodology for</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cambodia in English/Khmer; (b) final adapted</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
8. CRESS Launching Forum  
**Output**: (a) Retrieved, checked, and validated questionnaires; (b) secondary data; (c) basic and secondary data and metadata encoded into the database  
**Dates**: Sep 23  
**Participants**: NIS and PARIS21 Consultants

9. Data collection, checking, and validation  
**Output**: (a) Retrieved, checked, and validated questionnaires; (b) secondary data; (c) basic and secondary data and metadata encoded into the database  
**Dates**: Sep 26 – Oct 7  
**Participants**: NIS with assistance of PARIS21 national consultant and guidance of PARIS21 international consultant

10. Consultation meetings with key stakeholders and follow-ups  
**Output**: (a) clarified/confirmed questionnaire; (b) additional information about the stakeholder and data  
**Dates**: Oct 3 – 7  
**Participants**: PARIS21 Consultants with assistance from NIS

11. Data processing and validation  
**Output**: (a) final data and metadata encoded into database; (b) analytical tables generated  
**Dates**: Oct 3 – 21  
**Participants**: NIS with assistance of PARIS21 national consultant and guidance of PARIS21 international consultant

12. Preliminary analysis  
**Output**: key findings  
**Dates**: Oct 17 – 24  
**Participants**: PARIS21 Consultants with assistance from NIS

13. Prepare first draft CRESS report  
**Output**: first draft of CRESS Cambodia Report  
**Dates**: Oct 24 – 31  
**Participants**: PARIS21 Consultants with assistance from NIS

**Dissemination and finalization of CRESS report**

14. Preparations for the dissemination workshop; international consultant’s mission  
**Dates**: Nov 7 – 11  
**Participants**: NIS and PARIS21 Consultants

15. Dissemination workshop  
**Output**: recommendations to improve draft CRESS Cambodia Report  
**Dates**: Nov 11  
**Participants**: NIS with guidance of PARIS21 Consultants

16. Finalize CRESS report (incorporating comments in the dissemination workshop)  
**Output**: Final CRESS Cambodia Report  
**Dates**: Nov 14  
**Participants**: PARIS21 Consultants and NIS

17. Endorse CRESS report for approval of relevant national authority  
**Output**: Approved/adopted CRESS Cambodia Report  
**Dates**: Nov 15 – 24  
**Participants**: NIS

18. Provide PARIS21 with final report for publication  
**Dates**: Nov 25  
**Participants**: NIS

19. Dissemination of final CRESS report  
**Dates**: Nov – Dec  
**Participants**: PARIS21 and NIS

**Note:**
Annex A

The CRESS can be improved at any time and adapted to the country’s situation and/or needs. A report on the lessons learned will be produced by the NIS and PARIS21 consultants to be submitted to PARIS21 Secretariat.