PROJECT BENEFITS

There are significant benefits from the restoration and improvement of public and social infrastructure assets although the costs are substantial. Overall economic and social recovery from the 2011 floods is likely to be the most critical benefit for Cambodians once the reconstruction is completed. In addition, the reconstruction activities have been carefully designed to fit into the medium- to long-term infrastructure development plans for Cambodia.

The rehabilitation of roads, bridges, and irrigation schemes will help reduce poverty both directly and indirectly.

- The direct poverty reduction impact will come from the provision of short-term employment and much-needed cash income to poor women and men using labor-intensive approaches where appropriate.
- The upgraded infrastructure will indirectly reduce poverty by improving physical access to markets and social services and by increasing agricultural productivity.

During the project implementation, affected families, including unskilled women, were hired under the project and related food- and cash-for-work schemes to undertake emergency repair of flood-damaged rural roads. This has quickly restored access to flood-affected areas for distribution of emergency assistance while providing jobs to the affected people. It also prepared the foundations for future rural road upgrading.

Economic and financial assessments will be undertaken for all subprojects under the investment packages in Stage 3. Economic analysis of flood projects will focus on future losses avoided and how such projects will improve the welfare of affected people and businesses through restoring basic infrastructure and improving connectivity. The affected people will also directly gain from employment and income generated by reconstruction activities.