



Today, transformation into digital society and economy is well in progress and no geographic region, business sector or social group will remain untouched by the new and emerging technologies, digital economy and industry 4.0., that are not only transforming how people create, exchange and distribute value in society, but are impacting how people produce, consume, trade and move. The impacts, however, will greatly depend on how governments, businesses and society work together to design and govern these new transformations and evolving development trends.

Responding to and preparing for this is at the center of Lancang-Mekong Cooperation's mission. However, for Lancang-Mekong sub-region to continue to act as catalyst of inclusive and sustainable development and growth in the face of new and emerging technologies and innovations, more than ever, requires responses that are steered by a serious commitment to leaving no one behind. Central to this challenge is the urgency for bridging the urban-rural divide, as well as the gender digital and ICT divide and harnessing the digital revolution for gender equality and women's economic empowerment.

While women are celebrated as one of the most powerful engines of growth across the region and women's economic empowerment is increasingly recognized as the next driver of the region's success, girls and women are still faced with various barriers and obstacles – not only in the social and economic realm – and varying concerns regarding female inclusion and gender equality remain across LMC countries. Women have lower levels of access to the skills and the economic, productive and technological resources necessary to support active engagement in the knowledge society, digital economy and related professions. Girls and women are also still underrepresented in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM), as well we information and communication technologies (ICT) careers and educational and training settings.

Specific and measurable actions are needed to address the barriers that hamper unlocking women's full potential in the areas of finance, information and markets access, human capital development and leadership, and innovation and technology. In the context of women's economic empowerment, digitalization and mobile and digital technologies offer a variety of opportunities for empowerment and for a more equal female participation in labor markets, financial markets, and entrepreneurship, alongside opening new windows of opportunity for MLC countries to spur their goal of gender equality.

This is highly relevant for Cambodia, too. Building on the progress of achieving lower-middle-income status in 2015, the country is in the middle of responding to several key issues that urgently need to be addressed in preparing for and realizing its key development policies, such as transforming Cambodia from a labor-intensive to a high skilled value-added economy by 2025, alongside strengthening Cambodia's capacity to further integrate into regional and global economy, as well as preparing for digital economy and the fourth industrial revolution. And while on the national level, Cambodia can, for example, show for a range of dynamic developments in digital, tech and entrepreneurial ecosystems that are favorable for women's economic and digital empowerment, and increasing commitment is tangible in regard to promoting girls and women in STEAM, on the local level, however, women entrepreneurs, especially on the local level, still face a variety of obstacles and barriers towards access to digital and mobile tech literacy and skills, human capital development and leadership, information, finance and markets, and innovation and technology. Against this background, and taking up national and regional commitments and strategies of LMC countries for women's economic empowerment, for developing quality, competent and productive human resources and for preparing its societies and economies for regional digital economy and industry 4.0, this program proposal promotes women's economic and digital empowerment and inclusion as a key driver, not only for thriving LMC alongside regional connectivity and economic integration, but for each LMC countries' present and long-term sustainable and inclusive growth and competitiveness.

To address this challenge, the Ministry of Women's Affairs of Cambodia is seeking USD 500.000 in partnership support from Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Special Fund of the Chinese Government for implementing a 2-years (2020-22) program, titled "Women's Economic Empowerment in the Digital Age". As a pilot initiative, the program, with participation of the LMC countries Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam, and the strong support from China, sets forth an innovative multi-level and multi-partner approach that reaches out to three arguably crucially interlinked entry points for transformative change through women's economic and digital empowerment and inclusion, namely intra-LMC countries' dialogue and public and private sectors exchange; LMC countries' policy maker's joint learning and capacity development; and LMC countries' local level technical exchange and collaboration for bottom-up economic development and integration.

15. PROJECT JUSTIFICATION: (Give reasons why this particular project is considered worthwhile.)

N/A

16. BENIFITS: (Who will benefit, directly and indirectly, from the project?)

**Direct Beneficiaries:**

- a) Gender technical staff, focal points and policy makers of selected national ministries from the MLC countries Cambodia, Vietnam, and Thailand, regional program partners and China.
- b) Women entrepreneurs from the MLC countries Cambodia, Vietnam, and Thailand.

**Indirect Beneficiaries:**

- c) Representatives and participants from the public and private sectors participating at the Kick-off Event and National Workshop (incl. from participating LMC countries and China) and the general public.

17. FEASIBILITY STUDY

Is a Feasibility Study for the project required?    **Yes**

If YES, has it been carried out?

**Not yet**

18. SOCIAL & ENVIRONMENT IMPACT: (Briefly describe the effects of the project, if any, on the people and the surrounding environment. Will the project assist in alleviating poverty?)

**No**

19. CLIMATE CHANGE

a. Is any activity or output of the project related to Climate Change? **No**

b. How is the project relevant to Climate Change?

Please select a Climate Change related sector of the project and fill up the contribution of the climate change related expenditure compared to the total project cost.

Climate Change-Related Sector	Percentage	Climate Change Relevance
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20. DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Is any activity or output of the project related to Disaster Risk Reduction? **No**

21. GENDER ANALYSIS: (How does the project affect the roles of the men and women in the project area? Will women be actively involved in the implementation of the project?)

**Yes, this project will focusing on women and women entrepreneur to set up and improve their business by using Digital tools. So It can close or reduce the Gender digital gap.**

22. CAPACITY TO IMPLEMENT: (Does the Ministry have the skills and experience required to implement the project?)

**Sure, MoWA has mobilize the team to implement this project and It has been assisting by the national consultant as well.**

23. STATUS OF PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION: (Provide a brief update on the progress of the project to date. Discuss any major problems causing delays in project implementation.)

**It just started due to COVID 19. So, it hasn't any progressive yet and the project planed to conduct the kick off event at the end of July 2022.**

24. PROJECT PRIORITY: (Please indicates the priority ranking of the project decided by the ministry/agency.)

**5**

25. DONOR INVOLVEMENT: (Provide any information on current or potential donor involvement in the project.)

**LMC (China)**

**PART B : PROJECT COSTS AND FUNDING SOURCES**  
(In US\$'000)

INVESTMENT COST	2022		2023 Budget	2024 Estimate	2025 Estimate	2026 Estimate	3yr Total 2024-2026	Recurrent Cost Est.
	Budget	Actual						
<b>Operational Expenditure</b>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Salaries	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Materials + Admin	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Capital Expenditure</b>	247.6	0.0	206.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Construction	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Consultancy (i.e. TA) + Admin	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Equipment+ Furniture	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Training	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	247.6	0.0	206.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>TOTAL COST</b>	247.6	0.0	206.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
FUNDING SOURCES	2022		2023 Budget	2024 Estimate	2025 Estimate	2026 Estimate	3yr Total 2024-2026	
	Budget	Actual						
<b>Project Revenue</b>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
<b>Government Funding</b>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Cash Input	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Other Resources	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
<b>Donor Funding</b>	247.6	0.0	206.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
China	247.6	0.0	206.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
<b>TOTAL COMMITTED FUNDING</b>	247.6	0.0	206.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
<b>FUNDING REQUIRED</b>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
(Total Cost - Funding Available)								

**Seen and Approved by  
Minister**

(Signature)

Date :