

The Accra Agenda for Action – What does it mean for aid effectiveness in Cambodia?

TWG Retreat
December 2008

Objectives of presentation

1. What happened in Accra?
2. What does the AAA say?
3. Why is it important?
4. What are the key issues for Cambodia?
5. How might the RGC respond?

1. What happened in Accra?

- 3,000 donors, partner countries, IFIs and civil society came together to discuss the Paris Declaration
- Agreement that progress has been slow
- 9 Roundtables (ownership, alignment, harmonisation, results, mutual accountability, role of civil society, fragile states, sector work, new aid architecture)
- Challenges and priorities discussed
 - ⇒ Accra Agenda for Action (AAA) agreed

2. What does the AAA say?

- Not very different from Paris Declaration
- Focus on ownership, partnership, results
- Reference to civil society, Parliament
- 5 Paris principles – stronger priority actions:
 - use of country systems
 - division of labour / fragmentation
 - predictability of aid
 - conditionality
- More consensus on actions that matter

3. Why is Accra important?

- More representative and inclusive
- Removes uncertainty about responsibility
- Recognises urgency
- More concrete actions – “beginning now”
- Political – “we will be judged by the impacts that our collective efforts have on the lives of poor people”

4. Key issues for Cambodia




- Aid Effectiveness Report discusses:
 - a) central planning and budgeting processes
 - b) aid predictability
 - c) use of country systems
 - d) division of labour / fragmentation
 - e) managing for results
 - f) mutual accountability
- JMI to identify agreed actions
 - DPs and RGC to identify their own priorities
 - CRDB to prepare mapping of division of labour
 - TWGs to agree joint actions
 - GDCC meeting end-March to agree actions across sectors

4a. Planning/budgeting linkages

- CDCF meeting discussed:
 - roll-out of Budget Strategy Papers (sector)
 - closer collaboration between CDC/MoP/MEF
 - harmonised calendar for aid data collection
 - ensuring DPs provide multi-year projections

How to take this forward in Cambodia?

4b. Aid predictability

- “Beginning now, donors will provide full information on annual commitments and disbursements...and timely information on their 3-5 year plans” (para 26)
- RGC must therefore have systems in place to receive, manage and monitor this information:
 - Cambodia ODA Database (CDC)

 - Public Investment Programme (MoP)

 - Budget and MTEF (MEF)

 - Budget Strategy Papers / Annual Operational Plans (line)

4c. Use of country systems

- In Accra donors made a commitment to “use country systems as the first option” (para 15a)
- Must “transparently state the rationale” for non-use and provide TC and capacity support
 - Policy / planning processes
 - Budgeting (BSP/AOP), fund transfer, reporting and audit
 - Procurement
 - Coordination mechanisms and information systems
 - Reporting and joint reviews of progress

Better technical cooperation and step-by-step plans that include RGC-led joint capacity assessments

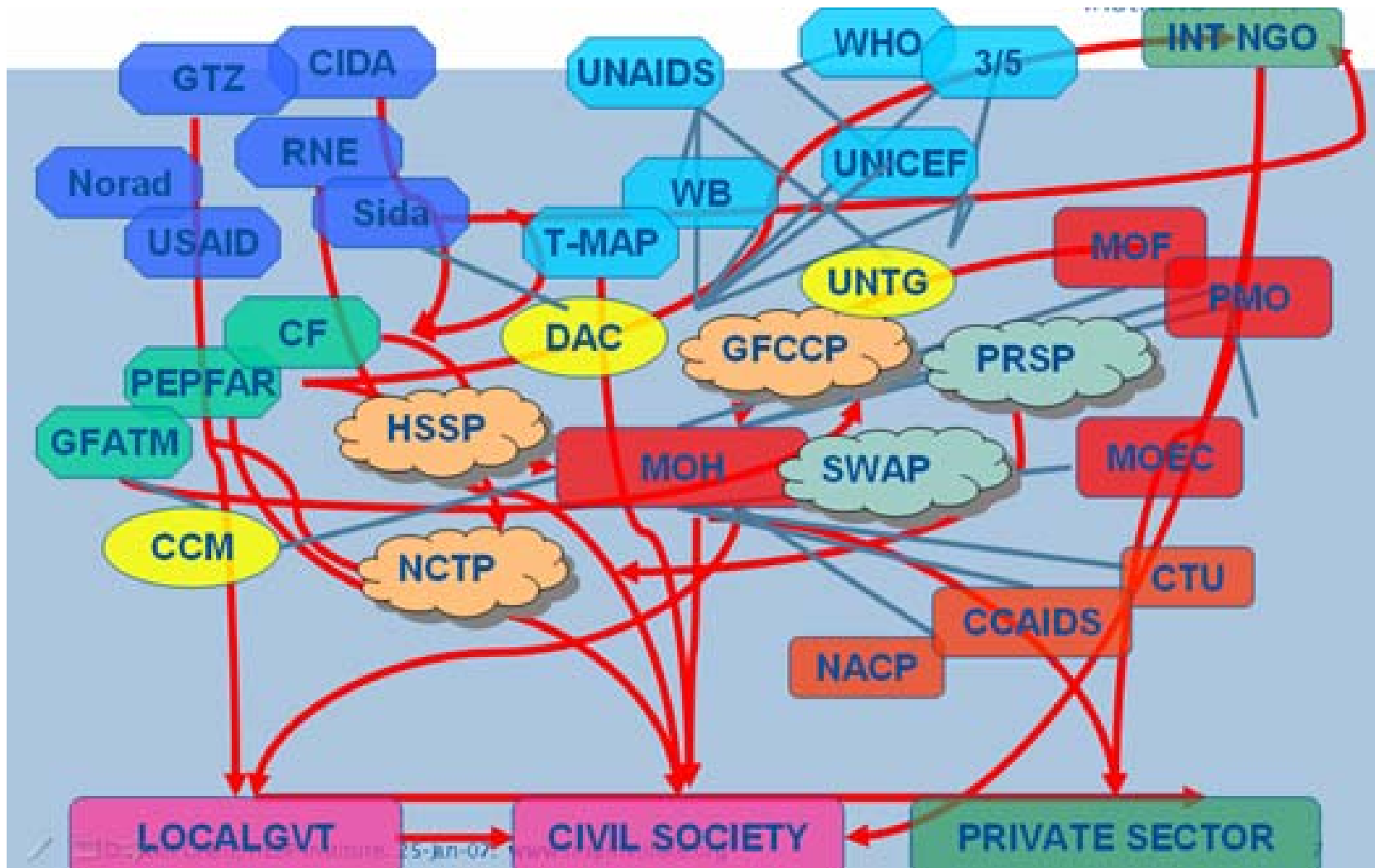
4d. Division of labour

- Too many donors, working in too many sectors, with too many projects
 - Results in:
 - Burden on Government time/resources
 - Fragments capacity of RGC
 - No responsibility for results = no results
 - No strengthening of Government systems
 - No ownership, alignment, harmonisation
- ⇒ **No aid effectiveness**

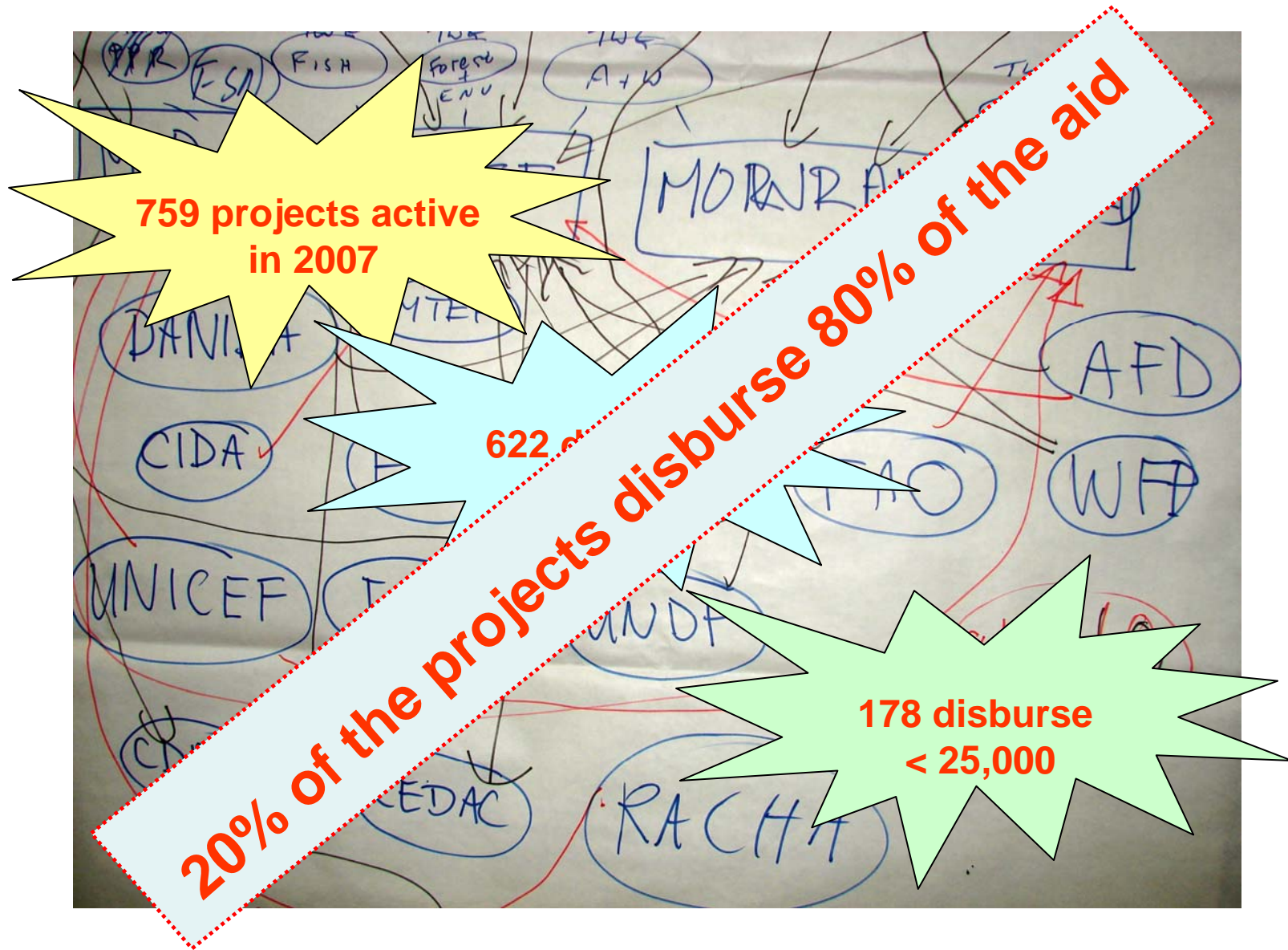
A global division of labour?



A national division of labour?



A division of labour in Cambodia?



Division of labour in Cambodia

- Aid Effectiveness Report and CDCF dialogue identify a need to rationalise
- RGC must facilitate/lead but DPs must engage voluntarily
 - no coercion
- Guiding principles (AER p20)
 - Overall objective to improve developmental impact
 - Aggregate sector financing to be maintained
 - To be guided by evidence (mapping of sectors – AER p33)
 - Guidelines on number of donors/projects per sector
 - Use of delegated cooperation, lead/silent partners

Must be part of broader dialogue on use of programme-based approaches, delegated cooperation, co-financing, “core DPs”, enhanced overall efficiency

4e. Managing for results

1. Central level:

- NSDP ↔ budget linkages (alignment)
- Data collection (routine systems, census/survey)
- NSDP monitoring (feedback to budget process)

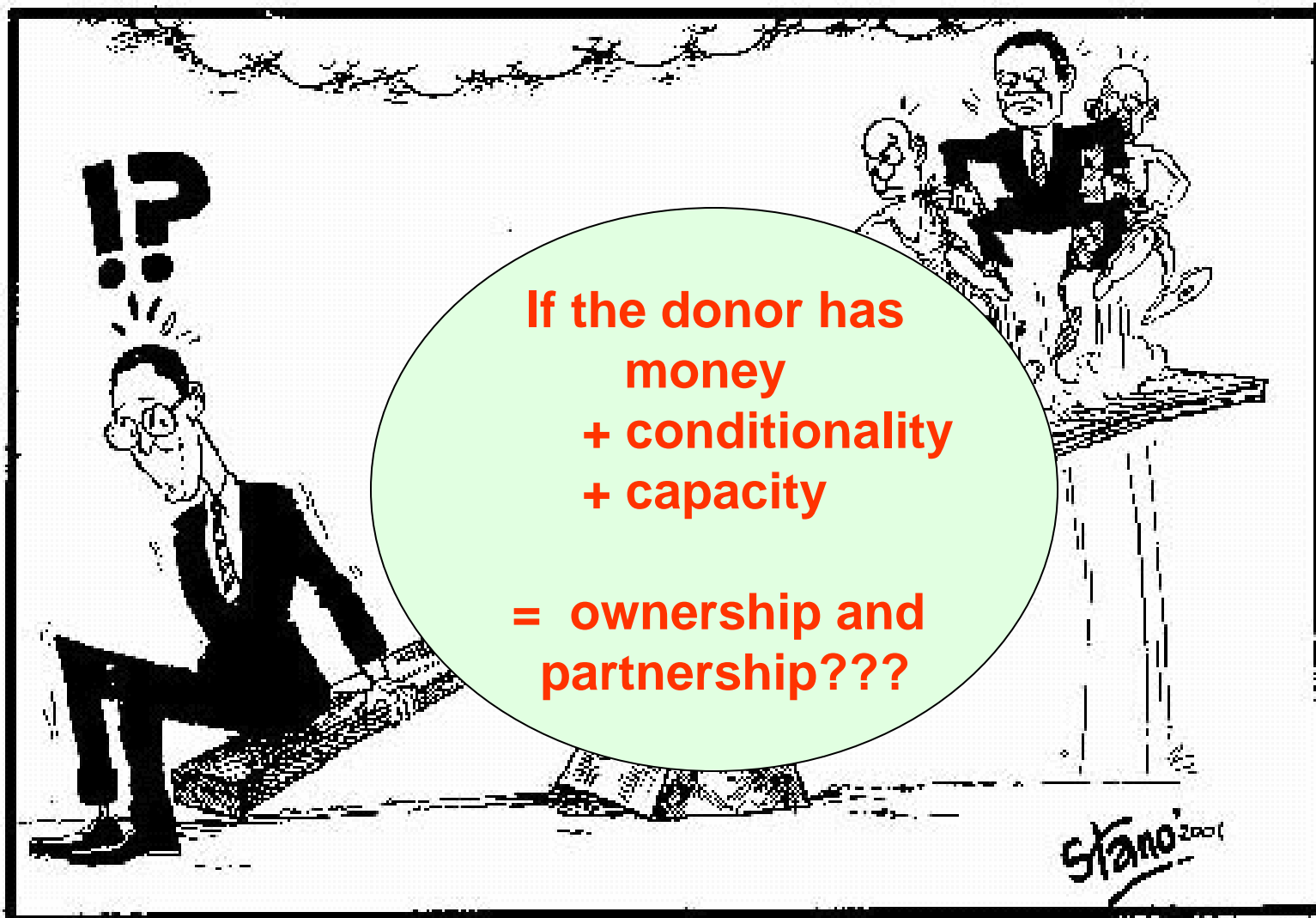
2. Sector / line ministry level

- Coherent plan-resource links
- Agreed activity / output / outcome indicators (incl. JMIs)
- Common monitoring and review frameworks

3. Mechanisms for sharing information

CDC to support results-based training in 2009

4f. Mutual accountability



Mutual accountability in Cambodia

- Should focus on the following:
 - improved partnership dynamics / trust
 - acquisition of “multi-stakeholder skills”
 - use of capacity support to strengthen ownership
 - sharing data on aid commitments/disbursements
 - DPs to join some TWG Network meetings
 - improvement of GDCC dialogue

CDC to sponsor partnership training in 2009

5. How might the RGC respond?

Success will depend on:

- Adapting to Cambodia's own needs
- Ensuring leadership & commitment (RGC & DPs)
- Strengthening technical capacity at sector level
- Taking a more simplified and relevant approach
- Building consensus and partnership
- Maintaining a focus on results, not process