When applying for JDS and preparing a research plan, you are advised to understand the **Sub-Program (SP)**, **background of the Component (CP)**, and **expected research areas** under the CP.

Sub-Program (SP) (Target priority area)	**2. Achieving Sustainable and Equitable Growth**
Component (CP) (**Development issue** in SP)	**2-2. Promoting Human Development**

CP background

Although the net enrollment rate for primary education exceeds 90%, internal efficiency is insufficient, with the gross enrollment rate for lower secondary education at 56% and for upper secondary education at 28%. This is largely due to poverty and other factors, as well as inadequate education quality, which hampers students' understanding and ability to keep up with classes. The low quality of education impedes the development of logical thinking skills and the cultivation of skilled industrial personnel, making it an urgent issue to improve teachers' subject knowledge and teaching practices. The Cambodian Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sport has identified strengthening teacher capabilities as a key issue in 'Education Strategic Plan 2019-2023' to achieve inclusive, equitable, and high-quality education and ensure lifelong learning opportunities.

Additionally, Cambodia has seen remarkable improvements in maternal and child health indicators due to continuous government efforts to reform the health system, economic growth, and aid from international donors.

However, challenges remain, including a shortage of health personnel, low access to healthcare services in rural areas, and the increase in non-communicable diseases, leaving the situation below satisfactory levels compared to neighboring countries.

Expanding the healthcare insurance system is an urgent issue to achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

In Cambodia, improving administrative capacity and establishing effective systems in the relevant field are key challenges, and the development of civil servants as the core administrative officials through the JDS project is expected.

Expected research areas

Educational Finance, Educational Policy, Education Quality Improvement, Educational Access / Inequality Correction, Social Protection, Health Finance, Health Policy, Improvement of Healthcare Quality