



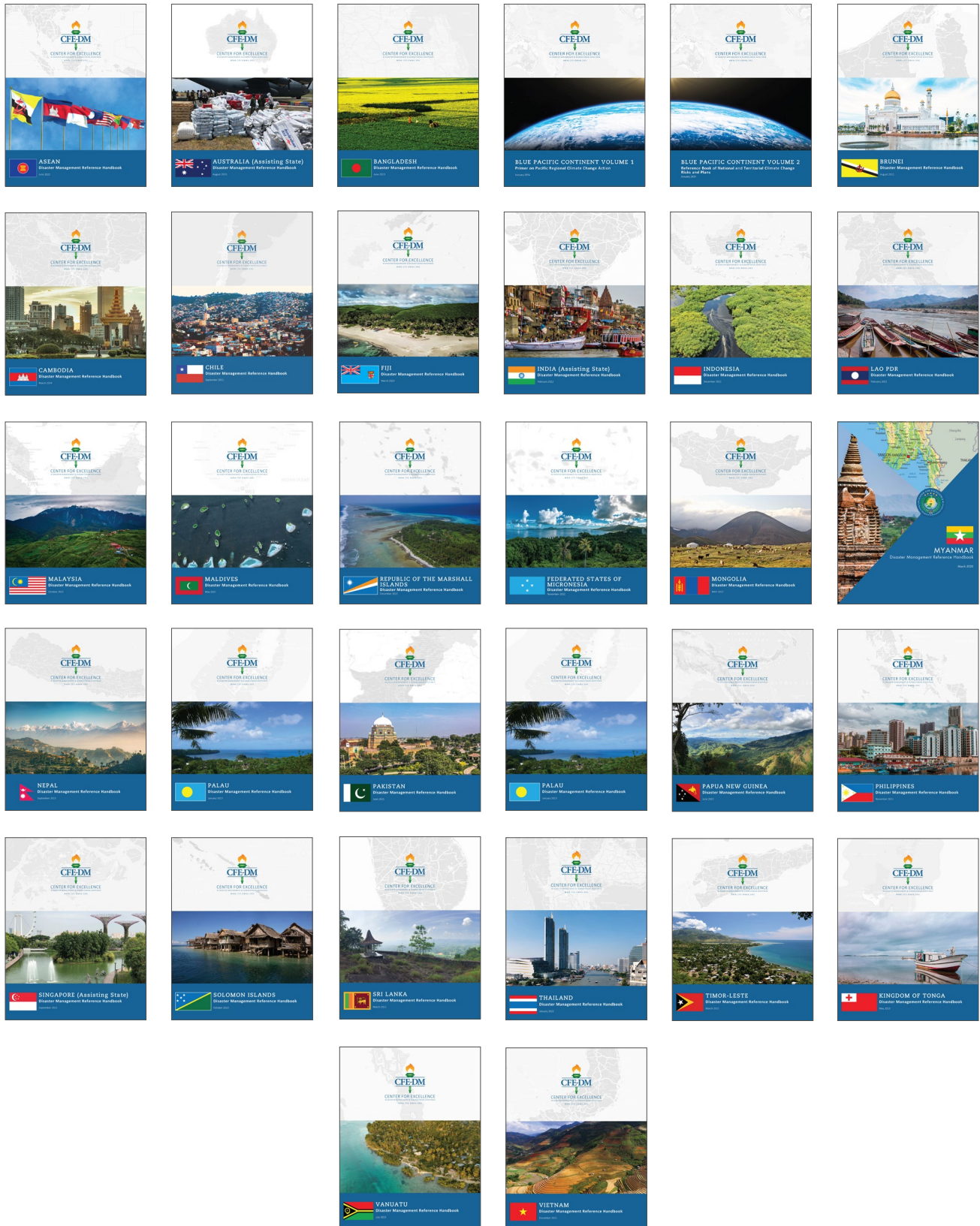
# CAMBODIA

## Disaster Management Reference Handbook

March 2024

# Disaster Management Reference Handbook Series

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## Front Cover

Phnom Penh, Cambodia by Roth Chanvirak on Unsplash.com. <https://unsplash.com/photos/a-city-with-tall-buildings-and-a-clock-tower-MndC6D5zNDs>

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# Letter from the Director

Cambodia already faces a high level of disaster risk and confronts the prospect of worsening storms, flooding, and drought in the coming decades due to the impacts of climate change.

For a decade, the Royal Government of Cambodia has been reforming the country's disaster management structures and policies, first by enacting a new Disaster Management Law in 2015 and subsequently by formalizing the National Committee for Disaster Management as the lead national government agency responsible for disaster management. Meanwhile, the country has been building the capacity of its sub-national disaster committees, which share responsibility for hazard identification and mitigation and for post-disaster damage, loss, and recovery needs assessment. Moreover, at this sub-national level, improvements to land use, infrastructure, education, and health care are occurring to ensure that communities are more resilient in the face of worsening hazards.

The United States (U.S.) continues to support Cambodia and all Southeast Asian states in their efforts to build resilience in the face of natural and human-made hazards. Especially through the Sister Rivers Partnership Exchange, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and representatives of the Mekong River states - Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam – are building shared expertise in river ecology management. Beyond this initiative, the U.S. armed forces support the U.S. whole-of-government approach, particularly in building Cambodia's public health institutions.

Along with other books in our Disaster Management Reference series, this Handbook provides the reader with a baseline understanding of national entities involved in disaster management. This resource offers an overview of the country's people, geography, and economy and details past disaster responses in addition to the country's disaster risk reduction policies. It is hoped that this Handbook will support planners or other personnel involved in disaster response in Cambodia or working with Cambodian disaster management personnel in a response or preparedness project.



Sincerely,

Joseph D. Martin, SES  
Director

# About the Center for Excellence in Disaster Management & Humanitarian Assistance

## Overview

The Center for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance (CFE-DM) is a United States (U.S.) Department of Defense (DoD) organization comprised of nearly 30 subject matter experts that provide academic research, civil-military coordination training, and operational insights to support decision making before, during, and after crises. The Center is designed to bridge understanding between humanitarians, civilian, and military responders. CFE-DM partners with a diverse group of governmental and nongovernmental actors, as well as academic institutions to increase collaborations and capabilities in humanitarian assistance and disaster response. While maintaining a global mandate, the Indo-Pacific region is our priority of effort and collaboration is the cornerstone of our operational practice. The Center is a direct reporting unit to U.S. Indo-Pacific Command (USINDOPACOM) and is located on Ford Island, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii.

## Vision

Resilient Joint Forces, Allies, and Partners that are fully prepared to respond across the spectrum of humanitarian crises.

## Mission

CFE-DM builds crisis response capacity in US and Partner militaries, enhances coordination and collaboration with civilian and foreign partners, and strengthens those relationships to save lives and alleviate human suffering before, during, and after humanitarian crises in a changing climate environment.

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Cambodia is a country in Southeast Asia, a member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and part of the Lower Mekong River region. Cambodia faces a high level of disaster risk and is ranked 58th most at-risk of 191 countries in the INFORM Risk Index in 2024.<sup>1</sup> Over 80% of Cambodia's territory is covered by the basins of the Mekong River and Tonlé Sap, and this situation exposes the country to seasonal flooding. In fact, riverine flooding is the most significant hazard Cambodia confronts; the second is epidemic disease.<sup>2</sup> Cambodia is also exposed to storms, cyclones, landslides, lightning strikes, fires, and droughts.<sup>3</sup>

Cambodia is highly vulnerable to the impact of climate change. In 2020, Cambodia was ranked as the 12th most climate risk-prone country globally, according to the Global Climate Risk Index. Climate change is projected to exacerbate flooding and drought risks and decrease Cambodia's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by as much as 10% by 2050.<sup>4</sup> Sectors most affected by climate change are agriculture, infrastructure, forestry, human health, and coastal areas.<sup>5</sup> Human activity, such as upstream dam construction and deforestation, threaten to reduce the productivity of agriculture in the Tonlé Sap basin and Cambodia's inland fisheries, and these reductions could threaten the livelihoods and food security of poorer, rural communities.<sup>6</sup>

In 2015, the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) enacted the Disaster Management Law and formalized the National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM) as the lead national government agency responsible for disaster management. The NCDM Secretariat integrates the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC), which is activated in case of a major emergency, and the Coordination Bureau.<sup>7</sup> Within the EOC and Coordination Bureau, different ministries share responsibilities – for example the Ministry of Health deploys Rapid Response Teams, while the Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology provides early

warnings for hydrometeorological hazards, and the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports strengthens disaster risk reduction (DRR) efforts in schools.<sup>8</sup>

In the event of a disaster, responsibility for initial disaster assessments and response falls to the sub-national disaster committees. The NCDM mobilizes emergency operations based on reports from the sub-national committees; it does so by convening the RGC to decide the declaration of a disaster in affected areas. After such a declaration by the RGC, NCDM and sub-national committees are empowered to mobilize both public and private assets for emergency operations. The NCDM and sub-national committees share responsibility to lead and coordinate the post-disaster damage, loss, and recovery needs assessment.<sup>9</sup>

Cambodia ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 1996 and has actively participated in the international community's efforts to address climate-related issues. In 2006, Cambodia was one of the first countries to submit a National Adaptation Programme of Action to the UNFCCC. In 2013, the RGC launched the Climate Change Strategic Plan 2014–2023, which captured the main strategic objectives and directions for climate-smart development for the country over ten years.<sup>10</sup> Then Prime Minister Hun Sen requested all Ministries develop climate specific budgets.<sup>11</sup>

Cambodia submitted its initial Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) in 2016 and submitted its Updated NDC in December 2020. Cambodia's current NDC sets a mitigation target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions compared to business as usual by 42% by 2030 and of reaching net zero emissions by 2050. Cambodia has also set an ambitious target of halving the deforestation rate by 2030.<sup>12</sup> Key sectors for adaptation in the NDC include agriculture, coastal zones, education, energy, health, infrastructure, tourism, and water.<sup>13</sup>

# COUNTRY OVERVIEW

Cambodia is in Southeast Asia and neighbors Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam. It is part of the Mekong River region, which includes the areas alongside the Mekong's 5,000-kilometer (km; 3,106-mile) course from its source on the Tibetan Plateau in China to the South China Sea.<sup>14</sup> Cambodia is a kingdom and is home to an estimated 16.9 million people. It trades heavily with its neighbors in Southeast Asia and is a member of ASEAN.

## History

The classical era of Cambodian history began with the emergence and expansion of the Khmer Empire over much of Southeast Asia between the 9th and 13th centuries.<sup>15</sup> The Empire began early in the 9th century with the ascension of Jayavarman II who had led the Khmer battle to throw off rule by Javanese kings in the late 8th century.<sup>16</sup> Jayavarman II established Angkor (Capital City) near Tonlé Sap (Great Lake); Angkor would be the capital of the Khmer Empire for 600 years.<sup>17</sup> Remnants of the Khmer Empire are evident today in the imposing monuments of Angkor Wat, a temple complex built in the 12th century by King Suryavarman II, and Angkor Thom, a temple complex built in about 1200 by King Jayavarman VII.<sup>18</sup> The Tonlé Sap and "floating houses" along its shore are shown in Photo 1.<sup>19</sup>

In 1887, Cambodia became part of French Indochina (Cambodia, Laos, and parts of Vietnam). After establishing suzerainty over Indochina between 1858 and 1893, the French created the first Indochinese Union to govern the three countries. Following the First Indochina War (1949–1950), to retain their territorial holdings, the French ratified separate treaties that recognized Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia as independent, self-governing states within the French Union, an agreement that formally

ended the French Indochina regional project. Cambodia gained full independence from France under Prince Norodom Sihanouk in 1953.<sup>20</sup> During the Second Indochina War – known in the U.S. as the Vietnam War – Cambodia initially adopted a position of neutrality but allowed Northern Vietnamese forces to operate from Cambodia. In 1970, Sihanouk was deposed by rightwing members of his armed forces, and forces of the U.S. and South Vietnam invaded to disrupt Communist sanctuaries in Cambodia. Cambodia's own Communists began a campaign against the country's rightwing national leadership, and the U.S. began a bombing campaign that targeted Cambodia's Communists in rural areas; that bombing campaign ended in 1973. Civil war between Cambodia's rightwing leaders and Communists continued until 1975 when Phnom Penh fell to the Communists.<sup>21</sup>

The Communist Party of Kampuchea (CPK), known as the Khmer Rouge, created the state of Democratic Kampuchea in 1976 and ruled the country until January 1979.<sup>22</sup> The Khmer Rouge implemented a radical form of a Maoist and Marxist-Leninist program to transform Cambodia into a rural, classless society in which there were no rich people, no poor people, and no exploitation. To accomplish this,



Photo 1: Boat and Floating Houses on Tonlé Sap

they abolished money, free markets, normal schooling, private property, foreign clothing styles, religious practices, and traditional Khmer culture, among other things.<sup>23</sup> Families were separated, and family relationships were disrupted, whether through intentional policies or because of the effects of the transformation program. Cambodians were asked to obey and respect only the CPK or “Angkar Padevat,” as CPK leaders were known.<sup>24</sup> During the Khmer Rouge regime, around 1.7 million Cambodians (21% of the country’s population) died from execution, forced hardship, or starvation.<sup>25</sup>

In 1978, Vietnam invaded Cambodia, and when Vietnamese troops reached Phnom Penh, they deposed the Khmer Rouge and occupied the country for next ten years.<sup>26</sup> These events touched off a civil war that ended with the 1991 Peace Accords (formally the Comprehensive Cambodian Peace Agreements).<sup>27</sup> The Accords paved the way for a United Nations (UN) peacekeeping mission, the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), to oversee elections in 1993.<sup>28</sup> UNTAC assumed control of key sectors of the country’s administrative structures, including foreign affairs, defense, security, finance, and communications, in order to build an environment conducive to national elections. Factional fighting in 1997 ended the first coalition government, but a second round of national elections in 1998 led to the formation of another coalition government and renewed political stability. The remaining elements of the Khmer Rouge surrendered in early 1999 after implementation of what became known as the “Win-Win Policy” of reintegrating Khmer Rouge fighters into society. In recent years, public opinion has shifted to attributing to the “Win-Win Policy” Cambodia’s journey to political stability, rather than crediting the 1991 Accords for the present state.<sup>29</sup>

The Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC), commonly known as the Khmer Rouge Tribunal, functioned for 16 years (2006-2022) with the mandate of holding criminally accountable leaders of the Khmer Rouge regime who were responsible for acts

of genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes.<sup>30</sup> Ultimately, only three individuals were convicted by the ECCC. The Khmer Rouge’s chief, Pol Pot, escaped justice and died in 1998 at age 72. The other defendants died before trial or during their trials.<sup>31</sup>

Hun Sen, formerly a member of the Khmer Rouge before turning to fight against the CPK during the Vietnamese occupation, served as the country’s Prime Minister from 1985 to 2023. In August 2023, Hun Sen transferred the Premiership to his son, General Hun Manet, a 45-year-old graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point and chief of the Cambodian Army.<sup>32</sup>

## Culture and Demographics

The population of Cambodia is approximately 16.9 million people, per a UN 2023 estimate.<sup>33</sup> In the country’s last household census in 2019, 7.8 million people were counted as female, and 7.4 million people were counted as male for a total of 15.2 million people.<sup>34</sup> Cambodia’s population is young, with about 29% of the population younger than 14 years of age, 65% of the population aged between 15 and 64 years, and only 6% of the population over 65 years.<sup>35</sup> Figure 1 graphs the age breakdown of Cambodia’s population.<sup>36</sup>

Cambodia is experiencing a prolonged, rapid rate of urbanization. The population of Phnom Penh doubled between 1998 and 2017, when it topped 2 million.<sup>37</sup> The urban population is projected to rise to 7.92 million by 2030 when it could account for 44% of the total population, according to the Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning, and Construction. A key element in this movement is economic opportunity, as Cambodia’s cities generate some 50% of GDP.<sup>38</sup> However, government studies have also identified problems with skyrocketing growth; they were broadly linked to a lack of planning and construction regulations or flouting or ignoring those regulations. Uncoordinated infrastructure development underlies many of the issues, especially traffic congestion and

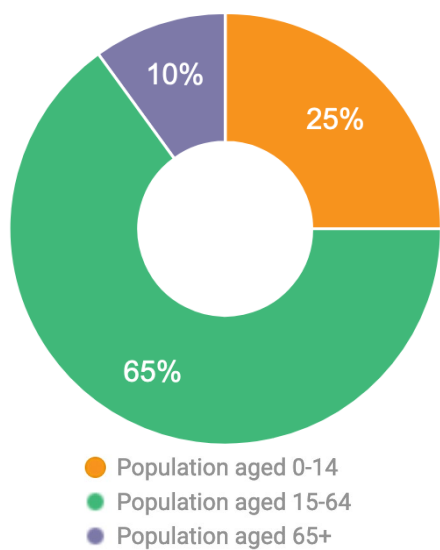


**Figure 1: Age Breakdown of Cambodia’s Population**  
flooding.<sup>39</sup>

As urbanization continues and Cambodia’s trade and social ties with global partners continue to flourish, additional cultural influences are adding to the already syncretic Khmer culture that developed over nearly 2,000 years before the colonial enterprise took hold. Pre-European Khmer society integrated aspects of indigenous animistic beliefs, Buddhist, and Hindu concepts as Indian language and arts reached Southeast Asia in around the 1st century CE. Of course, French influences came more recently, but they are still apparent.<sup>40</sup> The nuclear family has long been the major socio-economic grouping, and rural families with fewer assets have tended to adapt by living in ever more extended family arrangements; as urbanization has progressed, then, urban Cambodians have been able – or been forced – to revert back to smaller, nuclear households. In these households, mothers occupy the preeminent parenting role and put children to working at various chores even as they are occupied with schoolwork. Age tends to bring respect, and as a Cambodian person ages he/she will move up the social hierarchy scale.<sup>41</sup>

**Ethnic Makeup**

The predominant ethnic group is Khmer (95.4%). There are also Chams (2.4%), Chinese (1.5%), and a small number of other ethnic groups (0.7%).<sup>42</sup>

**Key Population Centers**

The major population center is the Central Plain region, home to over 7 million people, per a 2019 National Institute of Statistics estimate. The next most populated region is Tonlé Sap, with an estimated 4.8 million people. The coastal and sea region and the plateau and mountain regions of the northeast, north, and southwest have an estimated population of 1 million each.<sup>43</sup> The capital, Phnom Penh, is the largest city, with an estimated 2.1 million people. The next largest are Kandal Province with 1.2 million people, Siem Reap with 1 million people, Battambang with 987,400 people, and Kampong Cham with 896,763 people.<sup>44</sup> Photo 2 shows the massive capital, Phnom Penh.<sup>45</sup>

**Language**

The official language is Khmer, which is spoken by most people (95.8%). Minority local languages are spoken by 2.9% of the population, while other languages – i.e., Chinese (0.6%), Vietnamese (0.5%), and others – are spoken by tiny minorities.<sup>46</sup>



**Photo 2: Phnom Penh**

Khmer is one of the oldest languages of Southeast Asia. Written Khmer script is based on an Indian-style alphabet known as Aksar Khmer; it dates to the 3rd century CE. Khmer has been influenced by historic Indian languages – e.g., Sanskrit and Pali – due to the spread of Hinduism and Buddhism from India into Cambodia. Unlike Vietnamese, Thai, Lao, and Burmese, Khmer is not a tonal language.<sup>47</sup>

## Religion

The official state religion is Buddhism. Most of the population is Buddhist (93%) with 95% of Buddhists practicing Theravada Buddhism. Theravada is a school of Buddhism that is also practiced in Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Myanmar. There are an estimated 4,400 monastic temples throughout Cambodia.<sup>48</sup> As a state religion, Buddhism is promoted by the government through holiday observance, religious training, Buddhist instruction in public schools, and financial support to Buddhist institutions.<sup>49</sup>

The remaining 7% of the population includes Christians, Muslims, animists, Baha'is, Jews, and Cao Dai adherents. Most ethnic Vietnamese traditionally practice Mahayana Buddhism, although others have adopted Theravada or Roman Catholicism, and Vietnamese represent most of Cambodia's Catholics (0.4% of the population). Estimates of the Protestant population, including evangelical Christians, are collected by non-government sources, and Protestants are estimated to make up approximately 2% of the total population.<sup>50</sup>

## Vulnerable Groups

Vulnerable groups are addressed here as groups of people who, due to their social position or circumstances, are likely to be disproportionately disadvantaged compared to other groups in the community by adverse impacts from natural disasters, crises, and economic shocks. The groups covered below are not comprehensive but highlight some groups with heightened social vulnerabilities.

Factors exacerbating vulnerabilities are often cross-cutting. For example, studies have found

that impoverished rural-urban migrants tend to live in unplanned sections of Phnom Penh along main roads, railways, and sewage lines, or on lakes and in other flood-prone areas. These households are more common than average Cambodian households to be made up of six or more members, have two children or more, have at least one member with a chronic disease, or be female-headed. These households generally lack access to health care and education, cannot connect to utilities, and have few opportunities to access formal banking and credit schemes that would allow them to build businesses or invest in their own homes to build resilience to disasters.<sup>51</sup> Thus, combinations of sex, age, disease or disability status, and economic status can leave people disproportionately vulnerable.

### Women

The impacts of climate change and disasters disproportionately affect women, and in particular rural women. In Cambodia, critical issues related to gender inequality include restrictive gender norms, unpaid work, gender-based violence and harassment, labor market inequalities, and a lack of representation on decision-making bodies.<sup>52</sup> During disasters, gender inequality can place women in a more vulnerable position. Because women often have caring responsibilities for children and the elderly, they face more restricted mobility during disaster events. During floods, pregnant women and nursing and elderly women are particularly vulnerable due to their limited mobility and are vulnerable to exposure to disease. The UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) has collaborated with the NCDM to develop a Cambodia Women's Resilience Index (WRI). The WRI identifies areas that need to be addressed in both policy and practice to enable women to advocate for positive change to build their individual and community resilience at the local level.<sup>53</sup>

### Children

According to United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), children in the Asia-Pacific

region are exposed to six times more climate-related shocks than were their grandparents, an escalation that is eroding their long-term coping capacity and exacerbating inequality.<sup>54</sup> In Cambodia, nearly 2.9 million children are highly exposed to riverine flooding and 880,000 to cyclones, while millions are badly affected by various types of pollution, including 6 million exposed to air pollution, according to a report on climate and environmental shocks.<sup>55</sup>

## *Elderly*

Life expectancy in Cambodia leapt by more than 10 years for both men and women between 2008 and 2019, and the number of Cambodians above the age of 60 years topped 1.3 million (nearly 9% of the population) in 2019, according to the General Population Census. Estimates find that this age group will number more than 2 million people by 2030<sup>56</sup> and more than 5 million by 2050.<sup>57</sup> This expansion of the elderly population will challenge the country's health system as the number of people living with physical disabilities and non-communicable diseases rises, and it will challenge the social and economic systems as few Cambodians have an official pension and many are left alone in rural areas when younger family members move to urban areas for work. As many of the country's older adults lived through the paroxysm of the civil war and Khmer Rouge, there are significant gaps in many elders' literacy and job skills. The lack of extended histories of employment and savings combines with the government only launching a social security pension for private sector workers in 2022. Those who will be eligible for this program will need appropriate documents, a demand that will keep many elders without formal identification from accessing the funds.<sup>58</sup> Additional elderly people can be expected to be living in poverty in the coming years. A lack of financial resources will stymie elders' ability to build resilience to natural disasters even as waning mobility with age can keep them from accessing shelters and assistance during emergencies.

## *People Living in Poverty*

Nearly 18% of Cambodia's population lived below the poverty line in 2019.<sup>59</sup> Cambodia's national poverty rate fell by almost half between 2009 and 2019, but the Coronavirus Disease-2019 (COVID-19) pandemic has reversed poverty reduction progress. Rising non-farm earnings, e.g., from tourism or the garment and construction sectors, had contributed the most to poverty reduction.<sup>60</sup> Yet floods and droughts are driving sustained poverty. During the 20-year period from 1987 to 2007, a succession of droughts and floods resulted in significant loss of life and considerable economic loss, particularly for rural communities.<sup>61</sup>

While wealthy regions around the capital have better coping capacity, poorer regions along the Mekong, Tonlé Sap River valley, and in the Northwest are at greater risk due to both higher exposure and less coping capacity. World Bank Group analysis considered a combination of climate hazard and exposure maps and poverty maps, and findings suggested high vulnerability in the areas along the Mekong and Tonlé Sap, where a high share of poorer households are exposed to natural hazards. Under climate change scenarios, the adverse impact of flooding on agricultural land in poor communities is expected to be highest in the northwestern parts of the country. High poverty rates in the northern and western provinces also appears to coincide with significant population exposure to heatwaves, while central regions around the Mekong River and Tonlé Sap are exposed to recurring droughts, in addition to floods and heat stress. The compounding effects of frequent drought poses a significant risk to the poorest and most vulnerable households in these regions, as these people suffer disproportionately from livelihood-related shocks - e.g., crop and livestock losses. Figure 2 illustrates the World Bank findings of overlap between natural hazard exposure and poverty in Cambodia; blues illustrate exposure, and pinks illustrate poverty, the darker the shade, the greater value - i.e., more concentrated poverty and / or greater exposure to hazards.<sup>62</sup>

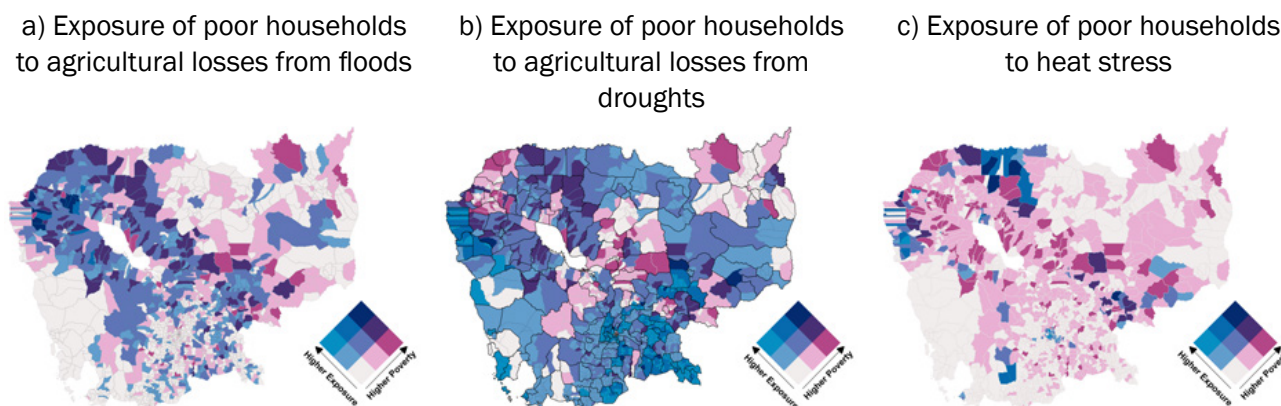


**Figure 2: Overlap between Poverty and Exposure to Extreme Weather in Cambodia**

### *People Living with Disabilities*

According to Cambodia's 2019 General Population Census, 4.9% of the population aged five years and above experience some difficulty in performing basic functions. Persons with disabilities face several challenges, including inequality and discrimination in access to education, health care, employment, social protection and justice, and public transport, and they are particularly vulnerable to violence and other violations of their rights. Women and girls with disabilities face additional discrimination and barriers when accessing services compared to men with disabilities, and they are vulnerable to violence because of their gender and disabilities.<sup>63</sup>

## Economics

Cambodia joined the ranks of “lower middle-income economies” in 2015 and aims to reach “upper middle-income” status by 2030. The country is currently designated by the UN as a Least Developed Country (LDC), a status from which the country is expected to graduate in 2027.<sup>64</sup> Before the COVID-19 pandemic, Cambodia was one of the fastest growing economies in the world. Between 1998 and 2019, Cambodia's GDP grew at an average annual rate of 7.7%, driven by tourism and garment exports. Cambodia experienced a five-fold increase in per capita income from US\$323 to US\$1,621 over the same period. This growth enabled a reduction in the poverty rate from 47.8% in 2007 to 17.8% in 2019.<sup>65</sup>

The COVID-19 pandemic seriously impacted Cambodia's economy and its population, with thousands of workers losing employment and 460,000 people falling back into poverty despite Cambodia having one of the world's highest vaccination rates (91% of the total population, and 99% of adults). The economic shock was due to Cambodia's economy being highly reliant on a limited number of sectors, which are excessively exposed to external markets. Key export commodities such as garments, rice, and cassava, and tourism services make up some 80% of total exports, with the European Union and the United States being the markets for 70% of these commodities.<sup>66</sup> During the pandemic, the government did implement an unprecedented expansion of social assistance to support poor households.<sup>67</sup> Support included wage subsidies, skills programs for suspended workers in garments and tourism, and relief packages for businesses. The government's Cash Transfer Program for poor and vulnerable households delivered more than US\$1 billion over three years.<sup>68</sup>

Nearly two-thirds of the population depend on agriculture, forest products, and fisheries for their livelihoods.<sup>69</sup> However, only about 40% of the entire national labor force occupies remunerated positions within the agricultural sector, and employment in the sector has trended downward for over a decade as mechanization has increased and the pull of garment industry and construction jobs in urban areas has increased. There is a very high labor force

participation rate at more than 80% of the working age population (16-64 years), and unemployment generally is lower than 1%.<sup>70</sup> Employment is not equally spread across the sexes; in 2022, the World Bank found that not quite 70% of Cambodian women are in work while more than 82% of men are. Moreover, women are more likely to be in informal work than are men with 53% of women and 41% of men in informal labor.<sup>71</sup> Regardless of sex, education has proven to be unfit for funneling Cambodians into key sectors to promote and sustain growth; a 2017 survey of employers found that nearly 78% of employers in hospitality could not recruit skilled workers.<sup>72</sup> As of January 2024, the Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training reported that 1.3 million Cambodians were working overseas; they were roughly split 40% women and 60% men. More than 93% of all Cambodians working overseas are in Thailand, while the remainder are in South Korea, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong, and Saudi Arabia. These workers send home an average of US\$2.9 billion annually.<sup>73</sup>

Cambodia is tackling several structural barriers and gaps to accelerate economic growth. One of these barriers is the large informal economy, which constrains public revenue collection and limits access to social protection for workers. An additional challenge is dependence on the agricultural sector which makes Cambodia's economy vulnerable to extreme weather events and climate change.<sup>74</sup> As work to address these barriers continues, the World Bank assesses that the economy will trend toward 6% GDP growth annually as government implements new free trade agreements, attracts foreign investment inflows, and encourages private and public investment in seaports and roads.<sup>75</sup>

## Government

The Kingdom of Cambodia is a parliamentary constitutional monarchy. The King serves as the head of state, and the Prime Minister is the head of the RGC. King Norodom Sihamoni was crowned in 2004 after the abdication of his

father, Norodom Sihanouk.

Under the 1993 Constitution, the powers of the government are separated among the executive, legislative, and judicial branches. Cambodia has a bicameral legislature comprising the National Assembly (125 members; five-year terms, proportional representation) and the Senate (62 members; two-members appointed by the Monarch, remaining members elected by Commune Councilors and members of the National Assembly).

The Cambodian People's Party (CPP) led the government with Hun Sen as Prime Minister from 1985 to 2023.<sup>76</sup> In August 2023, Hun Sen handed over the premiership to his son, Hun Manet.<sup>77</sup> The handover is considered part of a larger, generational shift, with younger lawmakers expected to take up ministerial positions.<sup>78</sup> Since 2018, the CPP has not faced a major opposition party in an election. The main opposition party, the Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP), was banned in 2017.<sup>79</sup> In the July 2023 national elections, the CPP won by a landslide after the main legal opposition party, the Candlelight Party (comprised of some former CNRP members), was disqualified due to a registration technicality.<sup>80</sup>

Cambodia has a three-tier sub-national government system that includes capital city/provinces, district/municipality/khans, and sangkat/commune.<sup>81</sup> At the regional level, there are 24 provinces and one municipality, the capital. The provinces are Banteay Meanchey, Battambang, Kampong Cham, Kampong Chhnang, Kampong Speu, Kampong Thom, Kampot, Kandal, Kep, Koh Kong, Kratie, Monduliri, Oddar Meanchey, Pailin, Preah Sihanouk, Preah Vihear, Prey Veng, Pursat, Ratanakiri, Siem Reap, Stung Treng, Svay Rieng, Takeo, and Tboung Khmum.<sup>82</sup> Provinces are divided into municipalities and districts. There are 159 districts, 26 municipalities, and 12 khans. Municipalities are subdivided into sangkats, and districts are subdivided into communes and sangkats. There are 1,406 communes and 227 sangkats.

Since the 1990s, Cambodia has pursued decentralization reforms to distribute more

resources to local communities or communes. The capital city, provinces, municipalities, districts, and khans are managed by the Law on Administration of Capital City, Province, Municipality, District and Khan. Communes/sangkats are regulated by the Law on Administration of Commune/Sangkat.

Communes/sangkats have a legal personality independent from other national and provincial and local governments. They have their own financial resources and administration. Sources of revenue include taxes, service charges, allocation of national revenues, and a transfer of fees for performing agency functions assigned by the executive, ministries, and other national bodies. Each commune/sangkat has a council of elected members. The number of council members varies depending on population density. Council responsibilities include budget plans, community development plans, and law and order within the locality.

The capital city, provinces, municipalities, districts, and khans are administered by councils (legislative body) and boards of governors (executive). The number of council members depends on population density. Through proportional voting, council members are indirectly elected by the commune/sangkat council members. The council makes decisions on investment programs, development plans, annual budget plans, and public security matters. Boards of governors are headed by a chairperson or a governor or deputy governors. Boards are responsible for implementing policies, action, plans, and decisions made by the councils and for reporting to the council on progress. Governors supervise, coordinate, and direct all line departments and units of the government ministries and institutions within their jurisdictions.<sup>83</sup>

Cambodia's judicial system is comprised of a three-tier system – courts of first instance, courts of appeal, and the Supreme Court. In addition, the Constitutional Council is responsible for verifying the conformity of laws with the Constitution and can hear constitutionality issues

that may arise during a trial.<sup>84</sup>

Of note, “Cambodia” is the anglicization of the French “Cambodge,” which is the French transliteration of the native name Kampuchea.<sup>85</sup>

## Environment

Cambodia's landscape is characterized by a low-lying, central, alluvial plain surrounded by uplands and low mountains. Key features include Tonlé Sap (Great Lake) and the upper reaches of the Mekong River delta. The Tonlé Sap, located in the northeast, is the most extensive freshwater lake in Southeast Asia. The lake is in the center of Tonlé Sap basin, which is surrounded by the Dong Rek Mountains to the north, the Cardamom Mountains to the southwest, and, to the east, other small hills that separate the basin from the Mekong River. During periods of rainfall, the Mekong River overflows and expands the size of the Tonlé Sap by up to five times. The water level in numerous other streams around the lake also rises and leads to the creation of a complex delta system, which provides habitats for endangered species like the Mekong giant catfish and giant freshwater stingray.<sup>86</sup> However, in recent years, due to upstream dams, Tonlé Sap is not filling up during the monsoon season because the peak discharge is no longer available. Consequently, less water runs into the Mekong Delta, which is experiencing more severe drought.<sup>87</sup>

Cambodia's natural resources include forests, waterways, plants, and wildlife, as well as minerals and fossil fuels.<sup>88</sup> Cambodia also has diverse and productive inland fisheries.<sup>89</sup> Large-scale, upstream damming is having a negative impact on livelihoods for the communities in and around the Mekong Delta region.<sup>90</sup> Deforestation, illegal sand mining, and other environmental problems are rampant. In 2016, it was estimated that forest covered 45% of Cambodia's total land area. Cambodia has lost nearly one-quarter of its tree cover since 2000.<sup>91</sup> Cambodia's NDC includes commitments to restore 60% of forest cover by 2030.<sup>92</sup>

Geography

The country is 450 km (280 miles) from north to south and 580 km (360 miles) at its widest point from east to west.<sup>93</sup> The terrain is mostly low, flat plains; there are mountains in the southwest and north. The mean elevation is 126 meters (m; 413 feet). The highest point is Phnum Aoral at 1,810 m (5,938.32 feet). The lowest point is the Gulf of Thailand.<sup>94</sup>

Cambodia’s topography includes the low-lying central plains of the Mekong, surrounded by mountainous and highland regions.<sup>95</sup> The country has two significant geographic features – Tonlé Sap and the Mekong River; both contribute enormously to the social, economic, and environmental well-being of the country. Rice cultivation in the flooded fields of areas surrounding them and rich biodiversity in the lake and delta regions are central to the country’s prosperity and identity.<sup>96</sup>

Extending outward from the central plain, the land rises slowly into thinly forested elevations (200 m; 650 feet above sea level). To the north, the central plain abuts a sandstone escarpment that stretches 320 km (200 miles) from west to east and rises to 180-550 m (600-1,800 feet) above sea level. The escarpment is the southern limit of the Dangrek Mountains. East of the Mekong River, the plains gradually merge with the forested eastern highlands, which extend into Laos and Vietnam. In southwestern Cambodia, the Cardamom and Elephant Mountains form another highland region between the Tonlé Sap and the Gulf of Thailand. The southern coastal region is a narrow, heavily-wooded strip, isolated from the central plain by the southwestern highlands.<sup>97</sup>

Borders

Cambodia shares 2,530 km (1,572 miles) of borders with Thailand (817 km; 508 miles) to the west, Laos (555 km; 345 miles) to the north, and Vietnam (1,158 km; 720 miles) to the east. It has 443 km (275 miles) of coastline on the Gulf of Thailand.<sup>98</sup> Figure 3 shows a map of Cambodia.<sup>99</sup>

Climate

Cambodia’s climate is tropical. The monsoon season runs from May to November, and the dry season occurs from December to April. There is little seasonal temperature variation.<sup>100</sup> The monsoon brings southwesterly winds, clouds, and moisture, and the dry season is cooler. In the early summer, before the rains begin, maximum temperatures often exceed 32°C (90°F), but temperatures remain in the range of 25-27°C (77-80°F) throughout the rest of the year. The annual average rainfall is 1,400-2,000 millimeters



Figure 3: Map of Cambodia

(mm; 55-78.7 inches) with higher rates in the coastal and highland areas. The El Niño Southern Oscillation influences the monsoons as the El Niño phase brings warmer and drier than average winter conditions, while La Niña

brings cooler than average conditions.<sup>101</sup> Figure 4 shows the average monthly mean, minimum, and maximum temperatures and precipitation for Cambodia for the period 1991-2020.<sup>102</sup>

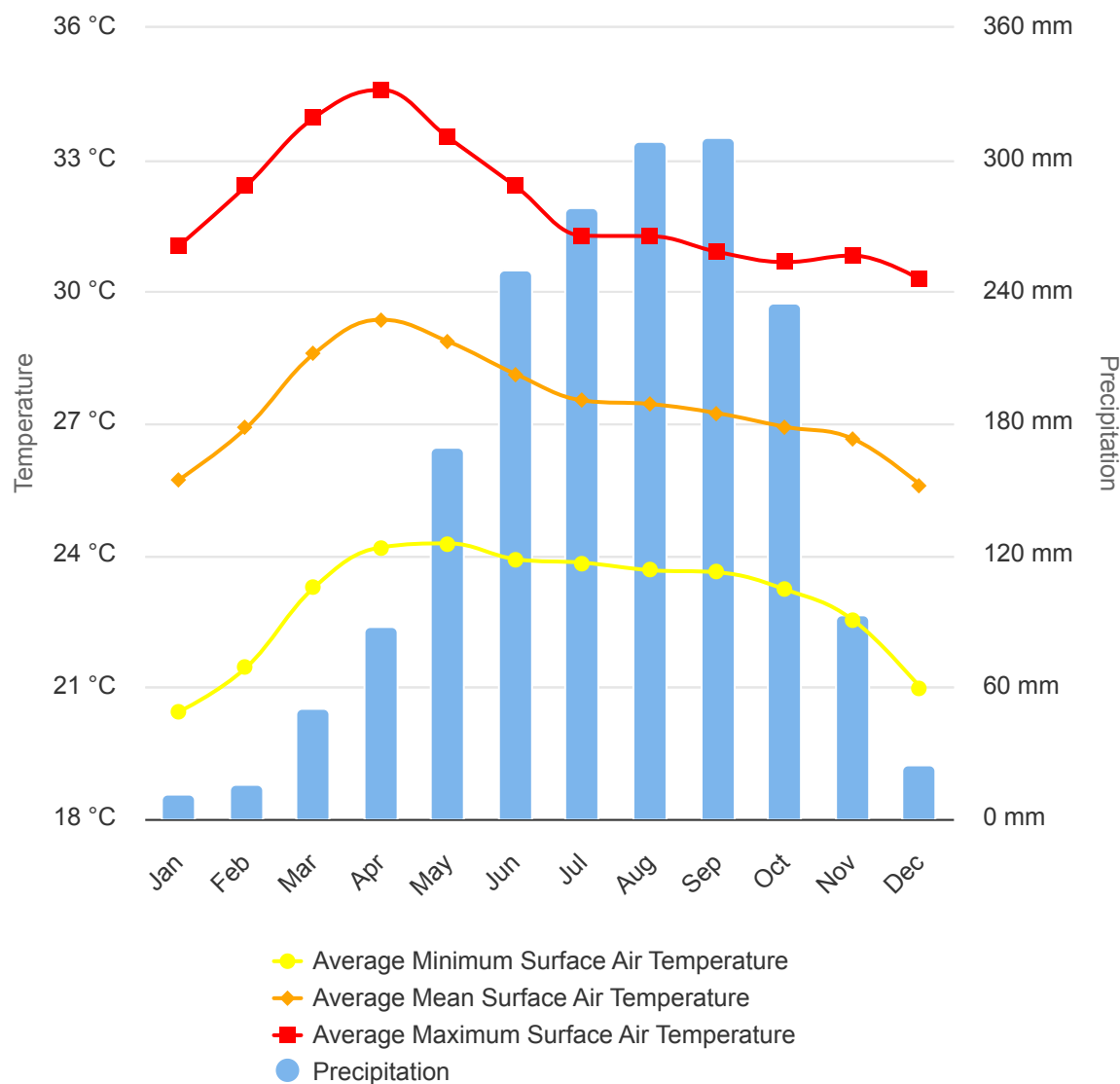


**Figure 4: Average Monthly Temperature and Precipitation, Cambodia (1991-2020)**

# DISASTER OVERVIEW

Cambodia faces a high level of disaster risk and is ranked the 58th most at-risk of 191 countries in the INFORM Risk Index in 2024.<sup>103</sup> Cambodia faces hydrometeorological hazards including floods, storms, tropical cyclones, and droughts. The highest risk stems from riverine flooding and epidemics.<sup>104</sup> The country also faces fires, lightning strikes, and landslides.<sup>105</sup> According to EM-DAT, the international disaster database, from 1987 to 2021, there were 37 hazard events that resulted in a disaster; floods represented 65% of that total and were responsible for the greatest number of deaths and amount of damage. Typhoons and droughts were next in terms of number of events with more than 80 people killed in seven storms and nearly 10 million people affected by droughts during the period.<sup>106</sup>

Cambodia is highly vulnerable to climate change-related economic and environmental shocks. Fiscal constraints and economic challenges make LDCs like Cambodia particularly vulnerable to the impact of climate change. Over two-thirds of deaths caused by climate-related disasters worldwide have occurred in LDCs.<sup>107</sup> Since 2014, Cambodia has utilized the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) process to identify and address climate change-related vulnerabilities in key sectors such as agriculture, forestry, and fisheries; infrastructure; health; coastal zones; energy; and tourism.<sup>108</sup>

## Climate Change

Cambodia is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. In 2020, Cambodia was ranked as the 12th most climate risk-prone country globally, according to the Global Climate Risk Index, which analyses to what extent countries have been affected by the impacts of weather-related loss events (storms, floods, heat waves, etc.).<sup>109</sup> Cambodia's ranking on this global index suggests a high level of vulnerability to extreme weather events.

While the country is responsible for minimal greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, the growth rate of emissions is swift. In 2019, Cambodia's per capita GHG emissions of 4.3 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent were less than half of the average of the world's 38 most developed countries, and Cambodia's share of global GHG emissions was only 0.14%, but GHG emissions grew at an average annual rate of 8% from 2010 to 2019, outstripping GDP growth. Emissions shot up on the back of changes to agriculture, transport, industry, and electricity and heat generation. An additional contributor to higher emissions was growth in the construction sector as building of factories, homes, and infrastructure expands to meet growing demand. This expansion of the built environment has also come at the cost of forests, as the country has lost 30% of its forests over two decades, a loss that may, in fact, be considered the greatest contributor to the country's skyrocketing emissions even as it has other impacts – e.g., soil erosion, less water retention, and increased risk of floods and landslides.<sup>110</sup>

Temperatures in Cambodia are generally consistent throughout the year, averaging 25–27°C (77–80°F) with average maximums of 38°C (100°F) and average minimums of 17°C (63°F).<sup>111</sup> These temperatures mean that the country already faces high exposure to heat stress, and cities suffer from urban heat island effects – i.e., amplified high temperatures due to the built environment. The country averaged an estimated 64 days per year when the maximum temperature exceeds 35°C (95°F). In 2020, Poipet, Siem Reap, Phnom Penh, and Battambang had mean urban temperatures of between 35.2°C and 36.7°C (95.4°F and 98.1°F), and the urban areas of Phnom Penh and Siem Reap were 1.16°C and 1.19°C (~2.1°F) hotter, respectively, than their non-urban areas. The construction of roads and buildings increases the heat island effect, and urban poor communities are especially vulnerable to heat stress and

associated health and productivity impacts as they often work outdoors and tend to live in overcrowded housing without adequate ventilation or cooling.<sup>112</sup> Cambodia is projected to experience warming of 3.1°C (5.6°F) over the 1986-2015 baseline by the 2090s under the highest emissions pathway. Maximum and minimum temperatures are expected to rise at a greater rate than the rise in average temperature. Extreme temperatures will increase pressures on human health, livelihoods, and ecosystems.<sup>113</sup>

Cambodia already has a high exposure to riverine flooding, and the population exposed to an extreme river flood could grow by around 4 million people by the 2040s, without GHG mitigation action. However, key factors such as damming of the Mekong River and its tributaries may alter future flood dynamics.<sup>114</sup>

Climate change is projected to exacerbate flooding and drought, which will subtract as much as 10% of Cambodia's GDP by 2050.<sup>115</sup> The sectors most affected by climate change are agriculture, infrastructure, forestry, human health, and coastal areas.<sup>116</sup> Climate change and human actions – such as upstream dam construction and deforestation – could threaten to reduce the productivity of the Tonlé Sap basin and Cambodia's inland fisheries, reductions that would threaten the livelihoods and food security of rural communities.<sup>117</sup> Cambodia's 435-km (270-mile) coastline, particularly Koh Kong and Preah Sihanouk provinces, is vulnerable to sea level rise and the impacts of more intense typhoons under future climate projections. The coastal region may see sea level rise of at least 19 centimeters (cm; 7.5 inches) under all climate change scenarios by 2050. Under high-emission scenarios, sea levels could rise by 40-80 cm (15.7-31.5 inches).<sup>118</sup> These factors could cause coastal erosion, and strong winds during typhoons would damage settlements in the coastal areas where tourism would be reduced.<sup>119</sup>

Cambodia ratified the UNFCCC in 1996. In 2013, the RGC launched the first Climate Change Strategic Plan for 2014–2023 (CCSP).<sup>120</sup> The CCSP captures the main strategic objectives and directions for climate-smart development for the

country over ten years.<sup>121</sup> Cambodia submitted its Initial NDC in 2016 and submitted its Updated NDC in December 2020. The current NDC sets a mitigation target of reducing GHG emissions compared to business as usual by 42% by 2030 and net zero emission by 2050. Cambodia has also set an ambitious target of halving the deforestation rate by 2030, in line with Cambodia's REDD+ (Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation) strategy.<sup>122</sup> Key adaptation areas in the NDC include: agriculture, coastal zones, education, energy, health, infrastructure, tourism, and water.<sup>123</sup>

Cambodia commenced the NAP process in 2014. The National Designated Authority for climate financing is the Ministry of Environment. Cambodia currently has six projects supported through the Green Climate Fund for a total of US\$164.2 million, and there are an additional 11 readiness projects slated.<sup>124</sup>

## Hazards

Cambodia experiences nearly all types of hydrometeorological hazards from floods to droughts, heavy storms, typhoons, and lightning strikes. In addition, disease outbreaks (such as cholera, malaria, and dengue), fires, technological hazards, and climate change impacts can trigger disasters.<sup>125</sup> Floods and droughts are recognized by the RGC as major drivers of poverty.<sup>126</sup>

### Floods

With approximately 80% of Cambodia's territory covered by the Mekong River and Tonlé Sap basins, seasonal flooding is the most common and frequent emergency event in Cambodia.<sup>127</sup> While the flooding does have a cumulative, beneficial impact on agriculture-based livelihoods as it increases soil moisture and fertility, there are occasions when floods cause loss of lives, homes, and livelihoods in already fragile communities. Riverine flooding and flash flooding are the most common hazards, and major events occur approximately every five years.<sup>128</sup> World Bank Group analysis shows that built-up areas in Phnom Penh and large

urban settlements along the Mekong Valley (Stueng Treng, Kratie, and Kampong Cham) are particularly exposed to flooding from unusually heavy rainfall. Indeed, the highest mortality risk from flooding is along the Mekong River Valley, especially in densely-populated Phnom Penh and the upstream Mekong Basin. Agricultural land is most at risk in the Tonlé Sap region, particularly in Battambang, Banteay Meanchey, Kampong Thom, and Siem Reap, where, cumulatively, more than 7,500 hectares of agricultural land is exposed to floods.<sup>129</sup>

### ***Landslides***

Landslides occur in areas with porous soil and high soil moisture content and usually follow prolonged heavy rainfall. The populations and built-up areas in Koh Kong, Battambang, and Kampong Chhnang are particularly exposed to landslide hazards.<sup>130</sup> Landslides were most recently reported in Pursat Province, following heavy rainfall and flooding in September 2023.<sup>131</sup> As climate change shifts rainfall patterns and extreme precipitation events and drought become more frequent, slopes can become less stable and more likely to slip; deforestation of slopes can accelerate this process.

### ***Drought***

In Cambodia, drought is characterized by loss of water sources that coincides with the early end or delayed start of rainy season rainfall.<sup>132</sup> The southeastern regions of the country, particularly Pailin, are the most exposed to drought driven by rainfall variability.<sup>133</sup> According to drought impact reports in Cambodia during the period 1980-2019, there were drought events in almost every year.<sup>134</sup> Phnom Penh, Svay Rieng, Prey Veng, and Pailin are severely affected every 5-6 years, with more than 30% of cropland experiencing drought stress.<sup>135</sup> Cambodia commonly experiences a mini drought between late July and early August.<sup>136</sup> Although drought does not cause immediate loss of human lives like other disasters can, it has a significant impact on livelihoods, especially on agriculture, livestock, and water, and can have lingering

and deadly effects on human health.<sup>137</sup> The most recent severe drought occurred during the El Niño episode of 2015/2016. During this period, an estimated 2.5 million people across 18 provinces were affected by water shortages, land degradation, livestock loss, and reduced agricultural productivity.<sup>138</sup> Drought events can severely impact maize and rice production and lead to significant economic losses. In 2004, severe drought resulted in an 82% loss of harvest, and in 2009, the government had to spend US\$12 million to cover the lost rice production.<sup>139</sup>

### ***Storms, Lightning Strikes, and Fires***

Tropical cyclones / typhoons strike Cambodia six times every year on average. They have been known to deliver death and destruction, especially in Svay Rieng and Kampot where 230 hectares of agricultural land is considered highly exposed to annual cyclonic storms.<sup>140</sup> Lightning strikes during storms have caused fatalities and serious injuries. Lightning occurs during the annual rainy season from May to October. Provinces with the highest incidence of lightning strike are Battambang, Siem Reap, Kratie, and Kampong Thom, followed by Takeo, Svay Rieng, and Kampong Chhnang.<sup>141</sup> Despite NCDM efforts to increase awareness among farmers of the risks of working through thunderstorms, livelihood pressures in rural areas drive farmers, construction workers, and outdoor workers to continue their work and risk exposure during storms.<sup>142</sup>

### ***Riverbank Collapse***

Approximately 86% of Cambodia's total area lies within the Mekong River Basin.<sup>143</sup> Riverbank collapse along the Mekong occurs with some frequency and damages homes. Human activity, such as sand dredging, is contributing to riverbank erosion and riverbank collapse.<sup>144</sup>

## **History of Natural Disasters**

The following is a list of natural disasters in Cambodia in the last ten years.

### 2023 – Lightning Strikes

For the year 2023, the NCDM reported 143 incidents of death, serious injury, or destruction due to lightning strikes, up by some 30% over 2022 numbers. In 2023, 84 people were killed and 59 were injured; 107 head of cattle were killed, and 16 houses were damaged. NCDM pointed to the effects of climate change as a key driver in what is viewed as an uptick in lightning strikes as heat, extreme weather, and more intense rainfall all contribute to the frequency and deadliness of lightning. The provinces with the most lightning strikes were Battambang, Siem Reap, Kratie, and Kampong Thom.<sup>145</sup>

### 2023 – Floods

From July through September 2023, heavy rains affected 40,942 households in 17 provinces. Flooding forced 1,920 households to evacuate, and three people were killed. The worst-affected provinces were Kampong Thom, Battambang, Pursat, and Siem Reap. Rural roads and nearly 33,000 hectares of agricultural land were flooded and damaged. Local responders and the Cambodian Red Cross (CRC) were leading the response. Provincial authorities distributed food and shelter materials to more than 600 families, CRC delivered food and household goods, and NCDM coordinated the movement of water purifiers. Other Humanitarian Response Forum (HRF) members provided food assistance and cash as well as water filters in some provinces.<sup>146</sup>

### 2022 – Floods

Heavy rains fell throughout September and October 2022 and caused flooding in 14 provinces. An estimated 85,482 households in Kampong Thom, Battambang, Banteay Meanchey, Pursat, Preah Vihear, Siem Reap, Tboung Khmum, Kratie, Stueng Treng, Oddar Meanchey, Kampong Chhnang, Monduliri, Kampong Cham, and Kampong Speu were affected. Fourteen people died in Banteay Meanchey, and one was killed in Oddar Meanchey. Some 33,165 homes were damaged, along with 29 health centers, 280 schools, and significant stretches of road and agricultural

land.<sup>147</sup> A coordinated RGC-UN-non-government response delivered food and water-sanitation-hygiene items.<sup>148</sup>

### 2020 – Floods

In October 2020, Cambodia experienced heavy rainfall after multiple tropical storms crossed into the country after making landfall in Vietnam; Linfa arrived on 11 October, Nangka on 14 October, and a depression on 16 October, and they were followed on 25 and 28 October by Saudel and Molave. Flooding was reported across 19 provinces with the worst affected being Battambang, Banteay Meanchey, Pursat, Kampong Speu, and Kampong Thom. There were 42 fatalities after more than 2 million people were exposed to flooding with some 800,000 people directly affected and 14,300 households evacuated. In sum, an estimated 388,000 people were in need of immediate humanitarian assistance. More than 161,500 houses were damaged. RGC's immediate response included distribution of 1,200 tons of rice; CRC and its UN and non-government partners also responded. Clean water, sanitation facilities, and hygiene kits were the most needed items, based on an assessment conducted by RGC, the UN, and non-governmental organizations (NGO). The assessment also found that 175,000 households' livelihoods were impacted as 329,000 hectares of agricultural lands were damaged. In addition, 66 health care facilities and six hospitals were affected, and 950 schools were forced to close at least temporarily or be used as shelters.<sup>149</sup>

### 2019 – Floods

Heavy rains, including from tropical storms Podul and Kajaki,<sup>150</sup> brought flooding to the Mekong Basin and Tonlé Sap during September 2019. Provincial Committees reported a total of 10 provinces affected; they included Battambang, Kampong Cham, Kampong Thom, Kratie, Preah Vihear, Prey Veng, Stueng Trang, Tboung Khmum, Siem Reap, and Banteay Meanchey. Across the affected area, 16 people were killed. More than 93,000 households were affected, and 11,500 households were displaced.

In addition, the flooding affected 34 health centers, 359 schools, and roads and agricultural lands throughout the provinces. HRF members conducted needs assessments in coordination with Provincial Committees, and by early October, relief partners had delivered emergency assistance to more than 15,000 households; relief items included food, water-sanitation-hygiene (WASH) kits, and plastic sheeting. The Ministry of Health produced and disseminated health awareness materials and conducted enhanced disease screenings in affected areas.<sup>151</sup>

### **2018-2019 – Drought**

Rains failed across the country in late 2018 and early 2019. Drought was declared in some regions due to shortage of river water. Low water in the Tonlé Sap affected community fisheries, and some districts in Koh Kong, Kampong Thom, and Battambang experienced domestic water shortages. The agricultural sector in 16 provinces suffered losses, as 324,641 hectares of rice and 44,734 hectares of other crops were affected.<sup>152</sup>

### **2018 – Floods**

Cambodia's northeastern Stueng Treng province was affected by the 23 July 2018 collapse of Laos' Xe-Pian Xe-Namnoy hydroelectric dam. Two districts were directly affected by flash floods, and three districts were inundated. More than 5,800 people from the two first districts were evacuated by military, police, and other responders. NCDM and the Provincial Committee worked with Plan International and Caritas to provide relief items to 437 evacuated families. The HRF alerted its members and called an emergency meeting on 27 July. CRC deployed its disaster response teams from the local branch from national headquarters to the affected area on 24 July. CRC relief distributions included 2,000 relief kits (rice, canned fish, instant noodles, and non-food items) and 500 plastic tanks.<sup>153</sup>

### **2018 – Lightning Strikes**

According to NCDM, lightning strikes

killed 110 people during 2018.<sup>154</sup> In mid-May, a single strike in Koh Kong killed five,<sup>155</sup> and by October, NCDM said most victims were from the provinces of Kampong Thom, Pursat, Banteay Meanchey, Oddar Meanchey, and Preah Sihanouk.<sup>156</sup>

### **2016 – Lightning and Storms**

Higher temperatures linked to El Niño drove storm activity in the spring and summer of 2016. By late April, more than 400 strikes had hit the western provinces, where they killed three people and damaged 70 homes.<sup>157</sup> One storm alone brought 900 cloud-to-ground strikes within a 12-hour period in Oddar Meanchey province. Additional clusters of strikes in May killed one person and destroyed 80 homes.<sup>158</sup> By the end of the year, NCDM reported a total of 108 deaths and 105 injuries.<sup>159</sup> Storms destroyed 1,997 homes and damaged the roofs of 8,147 others during the year. Some 40 head of cattle were also killed.<sup>160</sup>

### **2015-2016 – Drought**

El Niño conditions were noted in the Pacific in late 2014. By June 2015, Cambodia had begun experiencing higher than average temperatures and less than average rainfall, and by March 2016, conditions had worsened to the point of a drought being declared. Almost every province was affected, but the provinces that were most impacted were Kampot, Battambang, Kampong Speu, and Banteay Meanchey where almost no rain fell between October 2015 and June 2016. River levels dropped by 50-70% below average. An estimated 2.5 million people suffered some effects of water shortage.<sup>161</sup> There was significant crop damage as many poor communities depend on precipitation-fed water for irrigation. Health centers also reported increased cases of illnesses.<sup>162</sup> The situation triggered a nationwide response. RGC began targeted distribution of drinking water with up to 5 million liters (1.3 million gallons) of water delivered per day to the most affected provinces. UN agencies, NGOs and the CRC also provided water distribution to communities, affected health care centers, and

schools, and they redirected routine development programming towards affected communities, with a focus on rehabilitation of water sources such as wells and community ponds. World Food Programme (WFP), UNICEF, and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), in collaboration with the NCDM and Provincial Committees followed-up the emergency response with nationwide household surveys to understand how impacted households were recovering. Initial survey results found that 37% of households had experienced water shortages, rice and cassava production had dropped by 22%, households took on an average of US\$1,282 in additional loans to cover agricultural costs, 62% of households had lost income, 11% of the population reported hunger, and 60% of children were suffering some level of malnutrition.<sup>163</sup>

### 2014 – Floods

Heavy rainfall associated with the monsoon and tropical storm Rammasun fell between early July and late September 2014. Flash flooding was reported in Preah Vihear and Kampong Thom as well as in Phnom Penh, where homes and businesses were damaged.<sup>164</sup> In all, six provinces were affected; at least 4,400 families evacuated after the Mekong and Tonlé Sap reached flood levels.<sup>165</sup>

## Country Risk

Risk calculation takes into account exposure to hazards, vulnerability, and coping capacity. Addressing all of these elements is important in reducing and mitigating disaster risk. Various indices emphasize structural or institutional risk while others emphasize hazards or losses (human and economic). Regardless of emphasis, disaster risk calculations use some form of the equation:

$$\text{Disaster Risk} = (\text{Hazard} \times \text{Vulnerability}) / \text{Capacity}^{166}$$

Taken from the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) glossary, definitions will help clarify this formula:

- **Capacity** - The combination of strengths, attributes, and resources available within an organization, community, or society to manage and reduce disaster risks and strengthen resilience.
- **Disaster risk** - The potential loss of life, injury, or destroyed or damaged assets, which could occur to a system, society, or a community in a specific period of time, determined probabilistically as a function of hazard, exposure, vulnerability, and capacity.
- **Hazard** - A process, phenomenon, or human activity that may cause loss of life, injury, or other health impacts, property damage, social and economic disruption, or environmental degradation.
- **Vulnerability** - The conditions determined by physical, social, economic, and environmental factors or processes, which increase the susceptibility of an individual, a community, assets, or systems to the impacts of hazards.<sup>167</sup>

In general, the goal of indexing risk is to inform decision makers and DRR and climate change adaptation (CCA) practitioners of the level of risk to and underlying capacity of the target community. The various risk calculation models support proactive crisis management frameworks and are helpful for prioritizing allocation of resources and for coordinating actions focused on anticipating, mitigating, and preparing for humanitarian emergencies.

### INFORM Risk Profile

INFORM is a collaboration of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Reference Group on Risk, Early Warning, and Preparedness with the European Commission. It is a multi-stakeholder forum for developing shared, quantitative analysis relevant to humanitarian crises and disasters. The Joint Research Center of the European Commission is the scientific lead.

There are three operational dashboards – i.e., INFORM Risk, INFORM Severity, and INFORM Climate Change. INFORM Risk is an open-source risk assessment for humanitarian crises

and disasters. It can support decisions about prevention, preparedness, and response.<sup>168</sup> As of December 2023, there were no crises within Cambodia being tracked by INFORM Severity. The INFORM Climate Change index for the country indicates few changes in exposure, vulnerability, or lack of coping capacity for Cambodia by 2050.

The **INFORM Risk** Index measures the risk of humanitarian crises and disasters in 191 countries. The INFORM model is based on the standard dimensions of risk: Hazards and Exposure, Vulnerability, and Lack of Coping Capacity. The first dimension measures the natural and human hazards that pose the risk. The second and third dimensions cover population factors that can mitigate against or exacerbate the risk. The Vulnerability dimension considers the strength of individuals and households relative to a crisis while the Lack of Coping Capacity dimension considers factors of institutional strength.<sup>169</sup>

The INFORM model is split into different levels to provide a quick overview of the underlying factors leading to humanitarian risk.

INFORM gives each country a risk score of 1-10 (1 being the lowest and 10 the highest) for each of the dimensions, categories, and components of risk, as well as an overall risk score.<sup>170</sup> The higher the score the more at risk a country is. In the 2024 INFORM Risk Index, Cambodia had an overall risk score of 4.3/10, which INFORM categorizes as the “Medium” risk class and lands Cambodia as the 58th most at-risk country in the Index. The Hazards and Exposure dimension score takes into account a combination of both natural and human hazards, and Cambodia rated 2.7/10 or 80th of 191 countries. The Vulnerability dimension score was 4.8/10 or 56th of 191, and the Lack of Coping Capacity dimension score was 6.9/10 or 42nd of 191. Physical exposure to River Flooding at 8.7/10, was the greatest threat in the Hazards and Exposure dimension, with Development and Deprivation measuring at a 6.5/10, making it highest in the Vulnerability dimension, and DRR rated 6.8/10, the highest score in the Lack of Coping Capacity dimension. Figure 5 shows the INFORM Risk dashboard for Cambodia for 2024.<sup>171</sup>

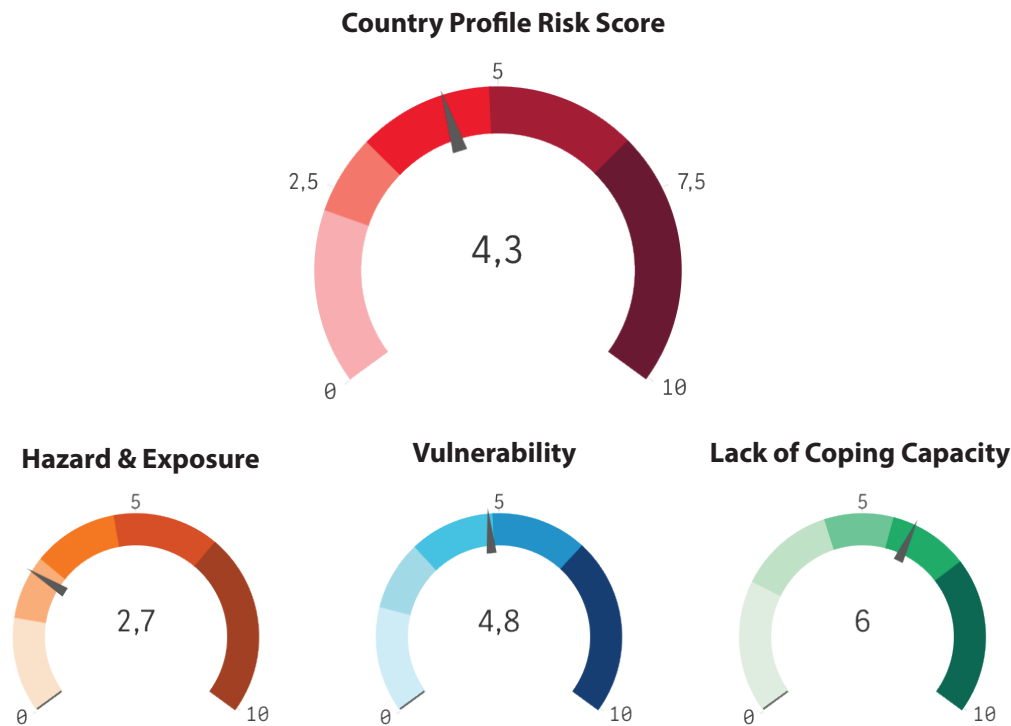


Figure 5: INFORM Risk Index, Cambodia (2024)

## World Risk Report

The World Risk Report by Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft strives to raise awareness of disaster risk among the global public and political decision-makers and to provide practitioners with data to promote faster orientation to complex situations – i.e., societies experiencing disasters. This effort stems from the perception that disaster risks are not solely determined by the occurrence, intensity, or duration of extreme events. Social factors, political conditions, and economic structures play an important role in turning these events into crises. Thus, this index is based on the assumption that every society can take precautions – e.g., effective disaster preparedness and management – to reduce the impact of extreme events and lower the risk of disasters.

The World Risk Report calculates the level of risk a country faces based on a formula of exposure to hazards and vulnerability. It provides an assessment of the risk that countries will confront disasters but does not indicate probabilities for the emergence of disasters, nor does it forecast the timing of future disasters. This index uses 100 indicators that include risk, hazard exposure, vulnerability, and coping capacity (as defined above), and adds two others:

- **Susceptibility** - The disposition to suffer damage in the event of extreme natural events. Susceptibility relates to structural characteristics and frameworks of societies.
- **Adaptation** - A long-term process that also includes structural changes and comprises measures and strategies that address and try to deal with future negative impacts of natural hazards and climate change. Analogous to “lack of coping capacity,” the lack of adaptive capacities is included in the Index.

In the 2023 World Risk Report, Cambodia ranked 65th of 192 countries wherein the country that is ranked 1st faces the greatest risk and the country that is ranked 192nd faces the least risk. Cambodia’s total Index score was 8.19 (on a scale of 0-100 wherein the lower the number the less risk a country faces), putting it in the “High” risk class. Figure 6 illustrates the differing scales the World Risk Report uses for each component of the score.<sup>172</sup>

Cambodia’s component scores were:

- Exposure: 2.47 (High)
- Vulnerability: 27.18 (High)
- Susceptibility: 29.66 (High)
- Lack of Coping Capacity: 13.65 (High)
- Lack of Adaptive Capacity: 49.62 (High)

For comparison, Cambodia’s total index score puts it above – i.e., at higher risk than – the regional (Asia) median of 4.97 but below – i.e., at lower risk than – the sub-regional (Southeast Asia) median of 14.04. In part, this status reflects high risk scores for Cambodia’s neighbors in Southeast Asia – Philippines, Indonesia, and Myanmar – but also the presence of very low risk countries – Singapore, Bahrain, Bhutan, and Brunei – in the broader Asia region. In terms of Exposure, Cambodia is above the median for Asia (1.6) but below the Southeast Asian median (8.64) in a reflection of Cambodia’s exposure to flooding, epidemics, and drought. In the Vulnerability dimension, the country is above the medians for both Asia (21.88) and Southeast Asia (22.83) in a reflection of low rates of development and high rates of inequality. Under Susceptibility, Cambodia is well above the medians for Asia (14.75) and Southeast Asia (16.01) due, in part, to class disparities and some displaced populations. In the Lack

| Classification | WorldRiskIndex | Exposure      | Vulnerability  | Susceptibility | Lack of Coping Capacities | Lack of Adaptive Capacities |
|----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| very low       | 0.00 – 1.84    | 0.00 – 0.17   | 0.00 – 9.90    | 0.00 – 7.17    | 0.00 – 3.47               | 0.00 – 25.28                |
| low            | 1.85 – 3.20    | 0.18 – 0.56   | 9.91 – 15.87   | 7.18 – 11.85   | 3.48 – 10.01              | 25.29 – 37.47               |
| medium         | 3.21 – 5.87    | 0.57 – 1.76   | 15.88 – 24.43  | 11.86 – 19.31  | 10.02 – 12.64             | 37.48 – 48.04               |
| high           | 5.88 – 12.88   | 1.77 – 7.78   | 24.44 – 33.01  | 19.32 – 34.16  | 12.65 – 39.05             | 48.05 – 59.00               |
| very high      | 12.89 – 100.00 | 7.79 – 100.00 | 33.02 – 100.00 | 34.17 – 100.00 | 39.06 – 100.00            | 59.01 – 100.00              |

Figure 6: World Risk Index Classification by Component Score

of Coping Capacity dimension, Cambodia is above the median for Asia (12.6) but sits on the median for Southeast Asia (13.65) in a reflection of Cambodia's shortfalls in government DRR capacity reaching communities. Finally, on the Lack of Adaptive Capacity score, Cambodia sits above the medians for Asia (44.39) and Southeast Asia (46.38) in a reflection of long-term deprivation and lack of DRR research and implementation.<sup>173</sup>

## Global Climate Risk

The Global Climate Risk Index (CRI) developed by Germanwatch analyzes impacts of extreme weather in terms of both fatalities and economic loss. The index is based on the Munich Re (a re-insurance company) NatCatSERVICE databases, among the most complete databases in the world in these categories of loss. The CRI examines disaster impacts in both absolute terms (e.g., number of fatalities) and in comparative, relative terms that allow analysts to set events and their impacts alongside each other to assess how a given country or community used its strengths or struggled due to its weaknesses in the face of an extreme event. The countries ranking highest on the CRI experience either frequent smaller-scale weather events or rare but extraordinary events. In sum, the CRI allows DRR and disaster management practitioners to consider how exposures and vulnerabilities will be impacted by climate change. The two different CRI measures – most impacted countries in a single year and most impacted countries over 20 years – offer analysts an opportunity to tease apart the effects of rare but major events versus frequent, cumulative events.

The major events examined by the CRI are tropical cyclones (typhoons). The key takeaway is that countries with high exposure to such storms – either frequent small ones or rare massive ones – will be preparing for less predictable, potentially less frequent,

but probably more powerful typhoons under climate change scenarios. The CRI cites various DRR and CCA efforts in countries exposed to hydrometeorological hazards, and it points to initiatives that pool risk for disaster risk management and financing solutions for countries in a given region. Germanwatch also points to the CRI findings as a clear reason to improve global climate change financing programs to ensure that the most affected countries – many of which are also least developed states – do not experience worsening development outcomes because of disaster losses. The CRI cites outcomes from the COVID-19 pandemic as examples of how simultaneous or consecutive disasters can erode resiliency in the absence of international solidarity funding.

In the 2021 CRI, the most recent index, based on single-year (2019) data, Cambodia ranks 84th of 180 countries and is, therefore, in the mid-range of countries assessed in this index. It experienced some human fatalities and economic damage from storms in that year. To the contrary, in the 20-year data table, Cambodia ranks 14th of 180 countries after it experienced greater human and material losses in absolute and relative terms over the period, earning it ranks of 38th and 53rd in the average fatalities per year and average losses (in terms of GDP) per year, respectively; its average fatalities per 100,000 inhabitants and average losses per unit GDP over the period earn it ranks of 35th and 28th, respectively. Thus, for its size, the country has experienced extreme weather that caused significant damage occasionally during the 20-year window used for this assessment.<sup>174</sup> Indeed, typhoons regularly impact Cambodia, which experiences high winds and heavy rain, particularly in the eastern and Mekong Lowlands regions of the country. Major storms struck the country in 2019, 2018, 2013, and 2009, but even in years that a major typhoon does not strike, monsoon rains and tropical storms can bring death and destruction.<sup>175</sup>

# ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE FOR DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Cambodia has substantially revamped its disaster management (DM) structure since 2015 when it passed new legislation to provide a more formal basis for institutions involved in DM and for participation by partner organizations and agencies. The National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM) is the national lead and serves as the country's focal point for ASEAN DM structures. Sub-national committees have primary responsibility for conducting DM actions within their jurisdictions and must apply to the national level for assistance if a disaster overwhelms their capacity. Although NCDM has some responsibility for climate change-related issues that impact DRR, the Ministry of Environment has primary oversight of the country's climate change mitigation and adaptation policies, plans, and programming.

## Lead Government Agencies in Disaster Response

The NCDM is the government lead for coordinating disaster preparedness and emergency relief and for coordinating among government line ministries and the donor community. NCDM is chaired by the Prime Minister and led by a Secretariat-General with representation from all government agencies, the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces, the CRC, and the Secretariat for Civil Aviation.<sup>176</sup> NCDM's annual meetings include representatives of ministries, institutions, the public and private sectors, development partners, and

civil society.<sup>177</sup> Operations are implemented by focal points in government ministries and sub-national DM committees, which exist at city/province, town/district, and commune levels.<sup>178</sup> Figure 7 illustrates the national and sub-national array of DM committees and working groups.<sup>179</sup>

The NCDM Secretariat manages NCDM's day-to-day operations and is divided into six departments:

- Operations, Emergency Response, and Rehabilitation
- Preparedness and Training
- DM Information
- ASEAN Collaboration
- Research and Planning
- Administration and Finance.<sup>180</sup>

The Secretariat's Department of Operations integrates the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) and the Coordination Bureau.<sup>181</sup> Within the EOC and Coordination Bureau, different ministries share responsibilities based on their areas of expertise – i.e., the Ministry of Health deploys Rapid Response Teams, while the Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology provides early warnings for hydrometeorological

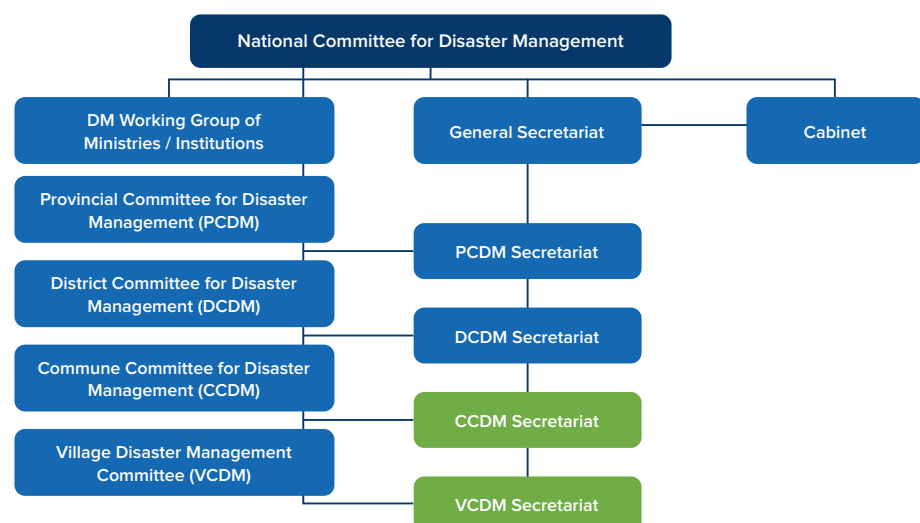


Figure 7: National and Sub-National DM Organization

hazards, and the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports addresses DRR in the school curriculum to increase awareness of disaster risks.<sup>182</sup>

Committees for DM exist at the provincial, district, and commune levels (PCDM, DCDM, and CCDM, respectively).<sup>183</sup> The PCDMs, DCDMs, and CCDMs conduct risk identification and risk analysis, integrate DRR into development planning and contingency plans, and reserve assets for disaster relief and emergency response. They act as the first line emergency responders along with local authorities.<sup>184</sup> As laid out in the Disaster Management Law, responsibility for management rises up to the PCDM if a disaster has affected more than one town or district or if it overwhelms the local capacity of the committee in the impacted town or district.<sup>185</sup> It is assumed that the DCDMs and CCDMs will direct relief assistance, evacuation, sheltering, and medical supplies during a disaster.<sup>186</sup>

The Royal Decree on the Organization and Functioning of the NCDM enumerated the Committee's tasks and responsibilities as:

- Issuing policies, strategic plans, plans of action, regulations, programs, and projects for disaster management
- Issuing guidelines for implementation of disaster management, promoting public awareness, prevention, mitigation, preparedness, emergency response, and recovery for safety and resilience
- Recommending the Royal Government take action on every case that will cause disaster and disaster occurrence
- Coordinating implementation of DRR and mainstreaming climate change, sustainable development, and gender issues by collaborating with line ministries in developing and strengthening institutions, mechanisms, and disaster management at all levels, in particular, at local community levels to ensure better response during emergencies
- Mobilizing resources for implementation of DRR policies, strategic plans, plans of action, relevant programs, and projects

- Strengthening collaboration and cooperation with development partners, the public and private sectors, and civil society for the benefits of disaster reduction
- Strengthening and expanding collaboration at the regional and international levels in disaster reduction
- Managing information and communication associated with DRR activities
- Raising proposals to the Royal Government on requirements, reserves, budgets, resources, and assistance for emergency response and recovery.

In addition to coordinating disaster response, the NCDM provides overall leadership for the National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction (NAP-DRR).<sup>187</sup> Issues of DRR related to climate change require cooperation with the Ministry of the Environment (MoE), which has primary oversight over climate change issues via the Climate Change Department (CCD).

The MoE is the national designated authority to the Green Climate Fund. Overall institutional arrangements of Cambodia for climate change management and national responses to climate change include the National Council for Sustainable Development (NCSD), General Secretariat of the NCSD (GSSD), CCD, and the Climate Change Technical Working Group (CCTWG). NCSD is a policymaking and coordination body established in May 2015 to promote sustainable development and to ensure economic, environmental, social, and cultural balance.<sup>188</sup> Meanwhile, the CCD is part of GSSD and leads technical efforts for CCA.<sup>189</sup> Figure 8 illustrates the relationship among Cambodia's climate change-linked offices, and Figure 9 shows NCSD's operational reach.<sup>190</sup>

The NCSD is composed of high-level representatives (Secretaries and Under-Secretaries of State) of key government ministries and agencies, with the Prime Minister as its Honorary Chair and the Minister of Environment as Chair. NCSD has made efforts to improve the coordination of climate change activities in Cambodia and to promote a

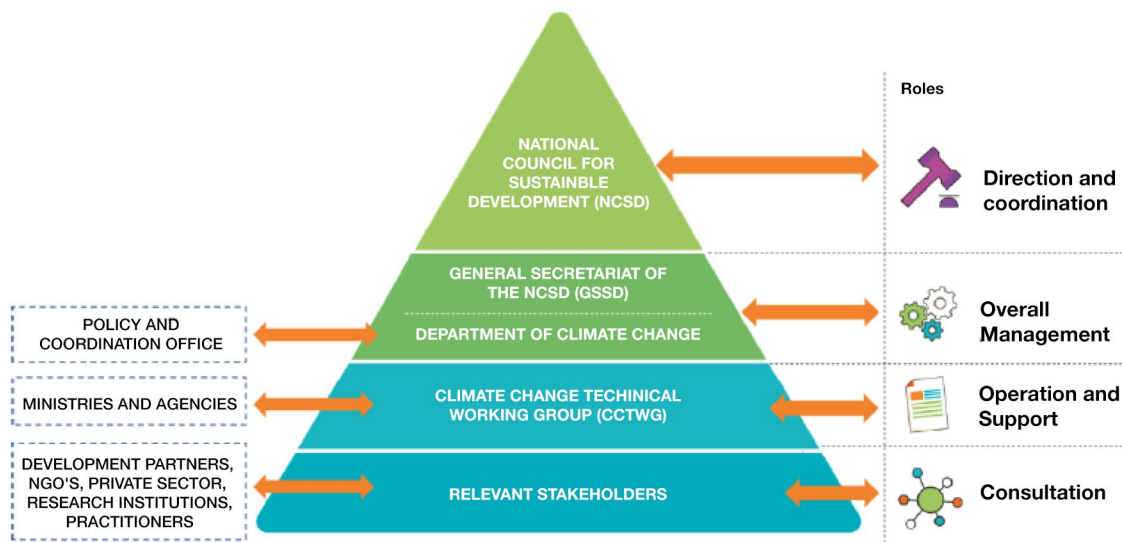


Figure 8: Cambodia's Institutional Arrangement for Climate Change Management

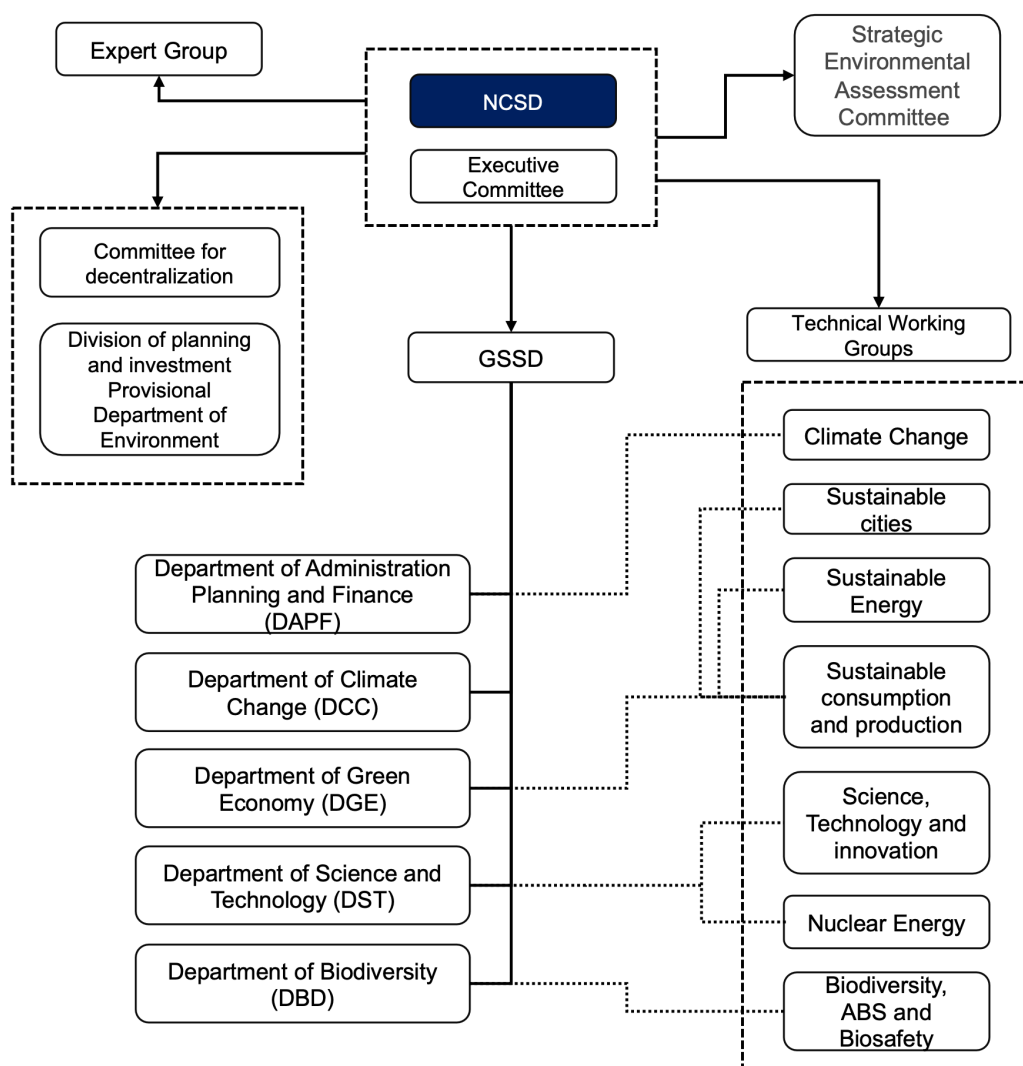


Figure 9: NCSD Institutional Organization

stronger, comprehensive, and effective climate change response, including the preparation of the Cambodian CCSP 2014-2023, the Sectoral Climate Change Action Plans, and the Climate Change Financing Framework.

The GSSD acts as the functional focal point to the UNFCCC. It is responsible for preparing and implementing legal instruments, policies, strategic plans, action plans, programs, and projects related to sustainable development. GSSD also coordinates the stakeholders at national, regional, and international levels. The CCD convenes and coordinates the CCTWG to discuss key priorities, which include the update and review of national institution indicators, review of the implementation of Cambodia's CCSP 2014-2023, and oversight of Cambodia's NDCs under the UNFCCC.

The inter-ministerial CCTWG, established in 2017, is chaired by a Deputy Secretary-General of the NCSD, and its membership totals 25 members from 19 different ministries and agencies. CCTWG provides technical and advisory support on climate change to the members of the NCSD, with terms of reference covering legal policy and regulatory frameworks, knowledge management and quality assurance, monitoring and evaluation, reporting on sectoral responses, reporting to UNFCCC, technical appraisal, resource mobilization and partnerships, capacity development, and awareness of and communication on climate change.<sup>191</sup>

At the sub-national level, mainstreaming climate change in the planning process includes the NCSD, the National Committee for Sub-National Democratic Development, NCDM, line ministries, and civil society organizations. There is both a local planning framework and a sub-national financing system, and through this process, climate change action can be mainstreamed in local-level planning and management. Provincial and district offices of line ministries assist in mainstreaming activities at the local level. Cambodian civil society is particularly active in CCA efforts at the community level where these organizations have

acquired substantial capacity and knowledge.

The Cambodia Climate Change Network (CCCN) is an umbrella initiative that brings about a more collective civil society approach to addressing the challenges and opportunities presented by climate change. CCCN takes an active role in bringing forward the interests of the poorest and most vulnerable people so that their needs are taken into consideration when and where climate change policies are shaped. The NGO Forum on Cambodia is also taking a lead role in organizing civil society engagement as it works on mainstreaming CCA in civil society organizations' programs, documents and disseminates adaptation initiatives, and advocates at national and sub-national levels.<sup>192</sup>

## Disaster Relief and Emergency Response

Legally, responsibility for initial disaster assessments and responses is allocated to the sub-national committees. NCDM mobilizes emergency operations based on reports from those committees; it does so by convening the Royal Government for a decision on declaration of a disaster in affected areas.<sup>193</sup> Constitutionally, only the King can declare a disaster, which is defined as "an event beyond the capacity of local authorities."<sup>194</sup> After such a declaration, NCDM and sub-national committees are empowered to mobilize both public and private assets for emergency operations. It is the combined role of the NCDM and sub-national committees to lead and coordinate the post-disaster damage, loss, and recovery needs assessment at their respective levels.<sup>195</sup>

By law, NCDM coordinates all DM activities together with ministries, institutions, the armed forces, public sector, private sector, and civil society.<sup>196</sup> Under the Law on Disaster Management, if the NCDM cannot respond to a disaster or if the extent of the disaster is greater than the response capacity of the country, NCDM shall appeal to the international community for emergency response and recovery assistance. NCDM can:

- Declare the acceptance of international assistance
- Command the relevant authorities to cooperate and collaborate with donors and international response teams in the response operation
- Authorize the utilization of international assistance to be delivered into the country under special rules, regulations, and procedures.<sup>197</sup>

In the aftermath of a disaster, an initial discussion among NCDM, CRC, the Humanitarian Response Forum (HRF), and Cambodian Humanitarian Forum (CHF) will focus on what is known about the disaster and the type of assessment required. NCDM has a standard reporting form for loss and damage; these data are collected digitally via a mobile data collection application (KoBoToolbox) and reported through open-source software developed by the WFP – the Platform for Real-time Impact and Situation Monitoring (PRISM). Loss and damage data are reported by CCDMs and DCDMs, and they go through PCDMs before being approved for official use by NCDM. These data will include affected population, affected and damaged houses, agriculture and infrastructure, and priority needs of affected families by sector (shelter, education, water-sanitation, health, food and cash, and protection).<sup>198</sup>

As a member-state of ASEAN, Cambodia is a signatory of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER), which provides direction for support to DM and oversight on the implementation of programs through ASEAN-wide guidelines. The ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre) was founded to provide a central space to strengthen DM cooperation and coordination among the member-states.<sup>199</sup> In operation since 2011, the AHA Centre works with Cambodia's NCDM and with national DM offices in other member-states.<sup>200</sup> The AHA Centre has also developed

tools and guidance to accelerate mobilization of resources by member-states and partners in times of disaster; these resources include stockpiled relief items and the deployable ASEAN Emergency Response and Assessment Team (ERAT) as well as the Standard Operating Procedure for Regional Standby Arrangements and Coordination of Joint Disaster Relief and Emergency Response Operations (SASOP), and Disaster Emergency Logistics System for ASEAN (DELSA).<sup>201</sup>

## Armed Forces Role in Disaster Relief

In cases of emergency, the Ministry of National Defense (MND) is a supporting entity to NCDM and the sub-national committees, as requested. MND can be expected to work especially closely with the Ministry of Communications, the police, the Ministry of Public Works, and the CRC as MND agencies frequently can deliver emergency resources for communications, security, reconstruction, and transport or evacuation. The commanders of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces (RCAF) will stand ready to open defense facilities to sub-national DM committees upon request and may render assistance at the request of NCDM. Among the key tasks of the RCAF is search and rescue.<sup>202</sup> NCDM is responsible for preparing and submitting a plan to the RCAF command regarding use of RCAF personnel and assets for search and rescue.<sup>203</sup>

With an estimated 100,000 personnel, RCAF is made up of the army, navy, air force, and gendarmerie; the army is, by far, the largest branch with an estimated 86,000 soldiers. In recent years, Cambodia's shifting relationships have seen a lessened U.S. influence and greater Chinese presence, including in RCAF training and equipment.<sup>204</sup> As it broadens engagement with Beijing, Cambodia has undertaken more military-military drills with China's People Liberation Army (PLA). In September 2023, the RCAF and PLA participated in Exercise Peace Angel. This first iteration of what is planned to be an annual drill saw participation by 750

troops – 595 of whom were RCAF. The troops used various fixed- and rotary-wing aircraft, ambulances, and other medical and rescue equipment to train on medical, health, and relief operations.<sup>205</sup> And RCAF continues to exercise skills and missions associated with humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) alongside fellow ASEAN member-states. In September 2023, ASEAN conducted its first ever military exercise - ASEAN Solidarity Exercise (ASEX) – in waters south of Singapore. ASEX focused on HADR cooperation using joint maritime patrols, simulated medical evacuations, and search and rescue in a bid to ensure that ASEAN member-states’ militaries work well together in emergency situations.<sup>206</sup> Before ASEX, RCAF had joined in bilateral and multilateral drills with fellow ASEAN member-states. In August 2023, RCAF and Thai forces conducted a 5-day HADR drill that considered search and rescue as part of disaster relief.<sup>207</sup> In September 2022, RCAF joined forces from Vietnam and Laos for simulated search-and-rescue operations in response to floods, landslides, building collapses, and chemical spills; the training included 500 troops from the three ASEAN member-states.<sup>208</sup>

The army has responded to various emergency events for decades; they have provided evacuation of flood-hit communities and rehabilitated flood-damaged roads and bridges.<sup>209</sup> During the COVID-19 pandemic, the army ensured security at treatment and quarantine facilities, transported food aid, enforced lockdown measures, disinfected public places, transported migrant workers from the Thai border, and vaccinated people.<sup>210</sup>

## Disaster Management Partners

The UN Country Team includes representatives from the FAO, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), International Labour Organization (ILO), International Organization for Migration (IOM), International Trade Centre, Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), UNAIDS, UN Capital Development Fund, UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), UN

Development Programme (UNDP), UNDRR, UN Environment Programme (UNEP), UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), UN Population Fund (UNFPA), UN-Habitat, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UNICEF, UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS), UN Volunteers, UN Women, WFP, World Health Organization (WHO), and UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).<sup>211</sup> In case of a humanitarian crisis, the UN Country Team will participate in the Humanitarian Country Team with key input from the HRF. NGOs working in the country include Save the Children, Oxfam, Action Aid, ACTED, Agronomes et Vétérinaires sans Frontières, Caritas, DanChurchAid, Habitat for Humanity, KHANA, Life with Dignity, Muslim Aid, World Vision Cambodia, People in Need (PIN), Caritas, CARE, and PLAN International. The CRC is also a key partner, and it has backing from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). Many international organizations working on DM participate in the HRF.

## *Humanitarian Response Forum*

The HRF ensures coordination and communication among UN system agencies, international NGOs, and international organizations. The HRF works in close collaboration with the government, especially NCDM, to facilitate a coordinated and effective approach in support of people affected by a crisis.<sup>212</sup> The HRF was first established in 2011 in response to the demand for increased coordination between development partners to address the demands of floods and droughts. HRF’s objective is to facilitate a coordinated and effective approach in support of people affected by humanitarian crises. HRF is co-chaired by WFP and DanChurchAid. It serves as a forum for:

- Response planning (preparedness) and gap analysis for informed strategy development

- Information sharing and management to facilitate coordination
- Advocacy and awareness of emergency risks, preparedness, and response actions required of key actors
- Mobilization of resources to meet identified gaps<sup>213</sup>

The HRF secretariat serves as the central point for the HRF. The main functions of the HRF secretariat are coordination, information management, and assessment and training. In line with the government's National Contingency Plan (NCP), HRF consists of six sectors – i.e., Food Security and Nutrition, WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene), Shelter, Health, Education, and Protection (child protection, gender-based violence [GBV], and human rights). Sector co-leads are responsible for coordinating with sector members for preparedness and response activities. The HRF sectors are aligned with the NCP. Table 1 details both the HRF co-leads and the government leads/co-leads.

Sector members include representatives of interested UN agencies, national and international NGOs, and other humanitarian

actors involved in emergency preparedness, humanitarian response, and early recovery.<sup>214</sup>

Unlike the more formal IASC Cluster system, co-leads and sector members are not dedicated to the sector activities but conduct normal development activities when not engaged in emergency preparedness and response. However, since the HRF is essentially an adapted version of the global Cluster system, the HRF can scale up in case of a large-scale disaster. In the event of a major disaster, the HRF secretariat and sector co-leads not only coordinate the response but can recruit other specialized staff to support the response.<sup>215</sup>

Following flood responses in 2011 and 2013, humanitarian partners conducted workshops that identified the need for stronger and more comprehensive preparedness, particularly at sector level. Based on this recommendation, the HRF developed a contingency plan. The first HRF Contingency Plan (HRF CP) was adopted in 2014, and successive HRF contingency plans have aimed to strengthen the collective preparedness of HRF member organizations and complement the NCP to ensure a better coordinated and effective response. The HRF CP focuses on climate-related hazards.<sup>216</sup> The HRF

| Sector                      | Government Lead and Co-Lead                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | HRF Co-Leads                                                                                                              |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Food Security and Nutrition | Lead: Ministry of Economy and Finance<br>Co-Leads: Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Ministry of Education Youth and Sport, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Commerce                                                       | WFP and Dan Church Aid                                                                                                    |
| WASH                        | Lead: Ministry of Rural Development<br>Co-Leads: Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology (MOWRAM), MOE, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Industry, Science, Technology and Innovation                 | UNICEF and World Vision International-Cambodia                                                                            |
| Shelter                     | Lead: MND<br>Co-Leads: Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation, Ministry of Health, MOE, Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction, Ministry of Rural Development                                       | IOM and PIN                                                                                                               |
| Health                      | Lead: Ministry of Health<br>Co-Leads: Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation, MOE, Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Tourism                                                                                     | WHO and Catholic Relief Services                                                                                          |
| Education                   | Lead: Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport<br>Co-Leads: Ministry of Health, Ministry of Economy and Finance, MOE                                                                                                                               | UNICEF and Save the Children                                                                                              |
| Protection                  | Lead: MND<br>Co-Leads: Ministry of Women's Affairs, MOWRAM, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation, State Secretariat of Civil Aviation | Child Protection: UNICEF, Save the Children, and World Vision International-Cambodia<br>GBV: UNFPA<br>Human Rights: OHCHR |

**Table 1: Government and Humanitarian Sector-Leading Organizations**

CP identifies four levels of activation:

- Normal season – No disaster; small-scale hazards (flood/drought/storms) are manageable at local or provincial level and do not prevent normal development partner program activities. HRF remains operational and is focused on preparedness, including regular work with NCDM, PCDMs, and other humanitarian actors.
- Level 1 – Moderate disaster: A disaster requires a response but is not sufficiently serious to prevent normal program activities for most HRF member organizations, or a disaster affects only certain provinces. HRF early actions can be activated to closely monitor the situation and liaise with NCDM, and sectors provide a response where needed, coordinated through the HRF secretariat and NCDM/PCDMs. HRF secretariat provides information, coordinates with member organizations and sectors, and monitors the situation through liaison and coordination meetings with NCDM/PCDMs.
- Level 2 – Severe or large-scale disaster: A disaster stops normal activities and requires HRF response. HRF response actions support the government response through NCDM/PCDMs. Sector-based response is led by HRF sector co-leads in coordination with NCDM/PCDMs and government sector lead/co-lead ministries. These situations are manageable with in-country resources. If emergency response funding is needed, HRF co-chairs, secretariat, and sector co-leads may assist in a consolidated appeal to donors, with the support of the UN Resident Coordinator's Office and Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP), if needed. HRF secretariat coordinates among HRF members, NCDM/PCDMs, CRC, and other humanitarian actors, and sector co-leads take the lead role in technical response and liaison with government sector lead/co-lead ministries.
- Level 3 – Worst case scenario: An overwhelming disaster requires international

support. HRF co-chairs, sector co-leads, and secretariat discuss IASC Scale-up Activation with the government (through NCDM and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation) and with the international community. HRF co-chairs and secretariat liaise with sector co-lead organizations to request international surge/stand-by staff and supplies from international stocks. Cluster system may be activated as a temporary measure in coordination with the UN Resident Coordinator's Office and OCHA ROAP. HRF coordination ensures that sector co-lead and member organizations are able to import staff and supplies, assists in identifying staffing needs, and supports recruitment of sector coordination and technical specialists.<sup>217</sup>

### *Cambodian Humanitarian Forum*

CHF represents and coordinates more than 100 local NGOs, and it provides training to NGOs and PCDM staff. Set up in 2012, CHF's mandate is to provide a strong institutional platform for local NGOs, and it has been funded by both the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC)<sup>218</sup> with in-country partners NCDM and the Royal University of Phnom Penh.<sup>219</sup> The CHF has a national reach across all provinces and in rural areas through its members; therefore, it has a key role in on-the-ground support. It runs Training of Trainers in using the PRISM rapid assessment tool to ensure that the broadest possible list of HRF assessment focal points can support standardized information gathering.<sup>220</sup> Among the key CHF founders was the NGO Partnership for Development of Kampuchea (PADEK), which works with disadvantaged rural communities to improve livelihoods. They support inclusiveness across disaster recovery programming by identifying regions that need to be prioritized to provide access to goods, services, and jobs to those that are disadvantaged.<sup>221</sup>

In case of a major disaster that overwhelms local, national, and partner capacity, the

CHF secretariat may open a CHF Emergency Coordination Center (ECC) to assist in monitoring and supervising CHF activation. During widespread operations in such a scenario, the CHF ECC will use surge resources from the CHF network to assist the CHF secretariat in effectively managing the operation.<sup>222</sup>

## ***Joint Action Group for Disaster Risk Reduction***

The Joint Action Group for Disaster Risk Reduction (JAG) is an informal group of civil society organizations that work on DRR and DM. It includes representatives from a range of organizations and can channel community and NGO outreach and coordination with government officials.<sup>223</sup> It works to reinforce the standardization of DRR activities, share information, and promote best practices. JAG can also act as a coordinating body to improve the response of members during disasters.<sup>224</sup> Having largely the same international members as the HRF, the JAG has an extensive program on preparedness. In 2015, HRF and JAG decided to remain as two separate entities to allow for more specific discussions around DRR to happen in the JAG, and emergency preparedness and response in the HRF.<sup>225</sup>

## **The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement**

### ***International Committee of the Red Cross***

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is a private, independent humanitarian organization, headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland. The ICRC bases its activities on the provisions of International Humanitarian Law (IHL), and it is neutral in politics, religion, and ideology. The ICRC assists with the protection of civilian victims of armed conflict and internal strife and their direct results. Within these roles, it may take any humanitarian initiative as a neutral and independent intermediary.<sup>226</sup> Cambodia is covered by the regional ICRC delegation in Thailand.<sup>227</sup> For 30 years, a significant portion of ICRC's work in the country has been related to physical care and

rehabilitation for Cambodians impacted by landmines. ICRC work in Cambodia in general has been focused on rehabilitating communities affected by different post-conflict issues in cooperation with Cambodia's Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans, and Youth Rehabilitation.<sup>228</sup> In 2021, the ICRC also opened a Mekong sub-office in Vietnam to cover Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam, where it focuses on restoring family links, IHL, migration and displacement, and communications.<sup>229</sup>

### ***International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies***

The IFRC is a humanitarian organization that provides assistance and promotes humanitarian activities carried out by the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering. IFRC was founded in 1919 and includes 191 National Societies. The IFRC supports its member societies in their relief operations to assist victims of disasters and combines this with development work to strengthen the National Societies' capacities.<sup>230</sup> In Cambodia, the work of the CRC is supported by the Bangkok-based IFRC Country Cluster Delegation for Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam. The delegation's MEKONG 2023-2025 IFRC network multi-country plan includes supporting CRC's work to address the climate and environmental crisis at the community level and to strengthen the National Society's capacities to respond to disasters and crises.<sup>231</sup>

### ***Cambodian Red Cross Society***

The CRC has been in operation in the country since 1955. Established by Royal Decree, the National Society plays a key role in Cambodia's national disaster management system and enjoys a permanent seat on committees for disaster management at national, provincial, district, and commune levels. It has 25 provincial branches and 208 district sub-branches, and its permanent presence and local networks allow it to conduct work along its programmatic and operational pillars:

- Disaster management
- Health and care in communities
- Promoting the fundamental principles and humanitarian values of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

CRC is a proponent of community-based DRR, community-based health and first aid, disaster preparedness, and youth and volunteer development. With more than 300 staff and more than 40,000 volunteers nationally, the CRC has supported authorities responding to various crises, especially the COVID-19 pandemic, with risk communication and social mobilization.<sup>232</sup>

## U.S. Government Agencies in Cambodia

The U.S. Country Team in Cambodia includes representatives of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Homeland Security, Peace Corps, the U.S. Naval Medical Research Unit-2 (NAMRU-2), USAID, and the US Army Medical Component of the Armed Forces Research Institute of the Medical Sciences.<sup>233</sup>

The CDC-Cambodia team is in direct technical collaboration with the Royal Government and health partners with a focus on strengthening institutional capacity and systems for public health. It maintains a presence at Cambodia's National Institute of Public Health and the Provincial Health Department in Battambang, and programs include those to end HIV and tuberculosis, better monitor and manage influenza, and deliver the Applied Epidemiology Training Program and Cambodia Applied Veterinary Epidemiology Training.<sup>234</sup> An additional health-focused resource is NAMRU-2 Phnom Penh. Its mission is to identify and develop interventions against infectious disease threats of mutual interest to the U.S., Cambodian Ministry of Health, and the international public health community, and its engagements support programming of the U.S. Country Team, the Ministry of Health, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, and the U.S. Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery. NAMRU-2 research

and diagnostic laboratory work at the National Institutes of Public Health, Phnom Penh, is done by four U.S. Navy members and over 90 Cambodian scientists, doctors, technologists, data technicians, and administrative personnel. It collects and characterizes over 5,000 specimens per year and rapidly distributes the resultant information to Cambodian and U.S. partners; upon request, NAMRU-2 Phnom Penh conducts outbreak investigations and supports outbreak response preparation.<sup>235</sup>

USAID works with Cambodian and international partners to reach all 25 provinces with a focus on advancing government accountability and human rights; improving health and nutrition; supporting education and child development; increasing agricultural production and food security; conserving forests and watersheds; and helping farmers and households adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change and natural hazards.<sup>236</sup> USAID is also a partner on Cambodia's climate priorities including CCA by developing agricultural solutions, carbon sequestration, the avoidance of emissions from deforestation, and sustainable eco-tourism. For example, the Feed the Future Cambodia Harvest III project supported private sector adaptation of innovative technologies to help farmers increase crop yields and income while avoiding ecological degradation.<sup>237</sup>

USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) is the U.S. Government lead federal coordinator for international disaster response and humanitarian assistance. USAID/BHA requests U.S. DoD support to disaster response operations on an as-needed basis, and only in situations where the U.S. military can provide a unique capability that other first responders, including those of the host nation and international humanitarian partners, have insufficient capacity to provide. USAID/BHA responds to humanitarian crises in approximately 80 countries every year—including natural disasters, conflicts, and severe food insecurity—and fulfills its mandate of saving lives, alleviating human suffering, and reducing the physical, social, and economic impact of disasters

worldwide. USAID/BHA provides funding, supplies, and expertise for the rapid and effective provision of humanitarian aid throughout the world.

USAID/BHA's staff presence globally and at its Washington, D.C., headquarters includes experts in the food security, nutrition, WASH, health, shelter/settlements, logistics, agriculture, economic recovery/livelihoods, livestock, DRR, climate adaptation, and humanitarian protection sectors. USAID/BHA has humanitarian advisors at all of the DoD combatant commands, Special Operations Command, and key DoD field-forward positions, as well as at the U.S. Mission to the UN in New York, the U.S. Mission to the UN and other International Organizations in Geneva, the U.S. Mission to the UN Agencies in Rome, the U.S. Mission to the European Union in Brussels, and the CDC in Atlanta, Georgia, U.S. To support disaster response globally, USAID/BHA maintains regional offices in six countries – Costa Rica, Hungary, Kenya, Senegal, South Africa, and Thailand – as well as 14 liaison offices, where regional advisors coordinate with relevant actors across their respective regions and countries. In addition to these offices, full-time USAID/BHA staff are present in 32 other countries. USAID/BHA's vast network of implementing partners includes affected communities, local and national governments, other U.S. Government entities, and international partners, including NGOs, international organizations, the international donor community, and the private sector. Relief supplies are pre-positioned primarily in implementing partners' warehouses, and in five USAID/BHA-managed warehouses around the world to enable a rapid response to any location globally.

As the lead federal coordinator for Foreign Disaster Response (FDR), USAID/BHA's annual budget reflects the U.S. Government's interest in providing needs-based assistance, and it has been as high as US\$11.9 billion annually in recent years for humanitarian assistance activities. All of USAID/BHA's programs and activities are humanitarian assistance, targeting populations most vulnerable to the impacts of shocks from

slow or sudden-onset emergencies. USAID/BHA's humanitarian assistance consists of two major conceptual areas, which may frequently be interlinked programmatically and strategically. The first area is humanitarian response pursuant to a Declaration of Humanitarian Need (DHN) issued by the U.S. Ambassador or Chief of Mission in the affected country based on four criteria:

1. There is evidence of significant unmet humanitarian need;
2. U.S. Government humanitarian assistance will save lives, reduce human suffering, and mitigate the impact of humanitarian emergencies on the most vulnerable;
3. The host country requests or will accept international assistance; and
4. Responding aligns with U.S. Government interests and humanitarian objectives.

This DHN permits USAID/BHA to begin emergency response activities. Humanitarian response is characterized by urgent action, including rapid assessment of needs and provision of funding to partners to meet those needs, logistical support to local and national actors, and frequently the deployment of USAID/BHA disaster response experts or teams.

The second conceptual area of USAID/BHA assistance is known as early recovery, risk reduction, and resilience (ER4) activities, which aim to improve the well-being of vulnerable people by strengthening their capacities to manage risk, to anticipate, withstand, recover from, and adapt to shocks and stresses, and to support positive, transformative change. These ER4 activities may be integrated with humanitarian response programming or may be stand-alone activities. ER4 programs and activities are cost-effective, reducing the need for future humanitarian assistance when shocks occur.

## Core USAID/BHA Responsibilities During an Emergency Response

- Conducting assessments of humanitarian needs

- Developing U.S. Government response strategy
- Coordinating the operational on-ground response in support of the U.S. Ambassador
- Providing fast and effective funding to established partners (NGOs, international organizations, etc.)
- Leading official reporting on humanitarian issues and U.S. Government response activities
- Requesting support from other U.S. Government agencies as required

When civilian and host nation military response capacity is overwhelmed and the U.S. military has a unique capability, USAID/BHA may request supplemental FDR support from DoD for a limited period. These requests occur in less than 5% of all official U.S. Government responses. Interagency requests for DoD support to FDR are transmitted to the Secretary of Defense (SecDef) in an official memorandum (Executive Secretariat Memo), which is required in order to leverage such DoD support. With SecDef approval, DoD components may provide non-reimbursable foreign disaster relief support to USAID using available Overseas Humanitarian, Disaster, and Civic Aid (OHDACA) funds. Coordination between USAID and DoD personnel is facilitated at the tactical, operational, and strategic levels by Humanitarian Assistance Advisors to the Military (HAA/M), who are USAID/BHA personnel trained to liaise with DoD counterparts and bridge gaps between the U.S. military and international humanitarian community. The DoD capabilities most commonly requested by USAID/BHA during a disaster response are logistics and airlift support rather than direct assistance to beneficiaries. USAID uses the Mission Tasking Matrix form as the formal means of tasking for DoD resources at the tactical level. OHDACA steady-state projects are distinct from FDR activities, and their implementation requires coordination with the local or regional USAID mission as well as

approval by the relevant U.S. Ambassador and DoD combatant command.

The U.S. Government prioritizes civilian leadership in humanitarian operations in accordance with internationally recognized humanitarian principles, including both the leadership of our responses and engagement with partner nations. The unique socio-political context of each partner nation is a key consideration for decision makers at all levels before, during, and after the use of DoD capabilities in a disaster response scenario.<sup>238</sup>

Recent USAID/BHA activity in Cambodia included implementation of a combination of emergency assistance and ER4 activities to address affected populations' immediate assistance needs and mitigate disaster risks by bolstering the capacity of communities, government officials, and local NGOs. From 2018 through 2022, USAID/BHA supported WFP to develop, in coordination with NCDM, the PRISM, a multi-hazard disaster management platform designed to reduce the impact of shocks on vulnerable populations by improving impact-based risk forecasting systems and utilizing information technology to enhance coordination and risk mitigation mechanisms at the national and sub-national levels. During three years of the PRISM program, USAID/BHA contributed nearly US\$2.5 million in funding for DRR policy and practice.<sup>239</sup>

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## Laws, Policies, and Plans on Disaster Management

Legislation in Cambodia tends to provide an umbrella mandate and to rely on subsidiary legislation from the executive branch, the RGC, to provide for more detailed implementation. Under the 2015 disaster management legislation, subsidiary legislation in the form of Royal Decrees and Sub-Decrees are required to provide the basis for policies, plans, and implementation strategies. In particular, the law required decrees to detail the organization and functions of the NCDM and its leadership, as well as the organization and functions of sub-national DM committees. Additional decrees are required to establish national mobilization procedures and facilitation of entry of international humanitarian assistance.<sup>240</sup>

In addition to managing national-level plans, NCDM helps update provincial contingency plans and encourages sub-national entities to maintain emergency plans. NCDM has facilitated the development of emergency response plans in 65 communes in disaster-prone provinces to increase commune-level capacity to handle small scale incidents.<sup>241</sup>

Having ratified the UNFCCC in 1996, Cambodia has actively participated in the international community's effort to address climate-related issues. In 2006, Cambodia was one of the first countries to submit their National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) to the UNFCCC. The NAPA focused on 'urgent and immediate' needs and will be complemented by the NAP process, which aims to meet the medium- and long-term adaptation needs.<sup>242</sup>

***Law on Disaster Management (DM Law)***

Passed in 2015, the DM Law formalized the NCDM as the headquarters of the government for disaster risk management, and it explicitly names CCA as a programming goal of hazard risk prevention.<sup>243</sup> Under the law, NCDM day-to-day operations are overseen by a Secretariat-General, focal points in line ministries, and Sub-National Committees for Disaster Management, each of which has operational roles.<sup>244</sup> Chapter 5 of the DM Law addresses international cooperation and assistance and named NCDM as the leader in coordination and implementation of international cooperation, collaboration, and assistance across financial and material resources. Moreover, it tasks NCDM with establishing a system to coordinate and cooperate in managing international assistance. Pursuant to the law, if a disaster overwhelms national response capacity, NCDM will request that the government appeal to the international community for emergency assistance, and upon commitment of international communities to provide assistance, NCDM may declare the acceptance of assistance, delegate to relevant agencies authority to cooperate and collaborate with donors and international response teams, or authorize international assistance delivery into the country under special rules. Under normal operations, international partners would interface with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.<sup>245</sup>

***Royal Decree on Organization and Functioning of the National Committee for Disaster Management***

The 2015 Royal Decree on NCDM includes extensive powers delegated to the NCDM to issue DM policies, guidelines, and plans, and to promote public awareness, prevention, mitigation, and preparedness, in addition to strengthening collaboration and cooperation with development partners, public sector, private sector, and civil society groups for the benefits of DRR.<sup>246</sup> It spells out the tasks and responsibilities for NCDM.<sup>247</sup>

### ***Royal Resolution on Appointment of the Components of the National Committee for Disaster Management***

The 2016 RGC Resolution named the individuals and posts to be held in the initial sitting of the NCDM. They included the Prime Minister as Chair and eight Vice-Chairs, comprising the Ministers of Interior, National Defense, Foreign Affairs, National Assembly-Senate Relations, in Charge of the Office of the Council of Ministers, and in Charge of Special Mission (two, of whom one was appointed Permanent Vice-Chair). Membership included other leaders of Ministerial rank from within the government, the Commander of the Royal Armed Forces, and port administrators.<sup>248</sup>

### ***ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) 2015***

As a member-state of ASEAN, Cambodia is a signatory to AADMER. Reached in 2015, the agreement's objective is to provide effective mechanisms to achieve a substantial reduction of disaster losses in lives and in social, economic, and environmental assets, and to respond to disaster emergencies through concerted national efforts and intensified regional and international cooperation. AADMER contains provisions on disaster risk identification, monitoring and early warning, prevention and mitigation, preparedness and response, rehabilitation, technical cooperation and research, and mechanisms for coordination. Given that it is a member-state of ASEAN and a signatory of the AADMER, Cambodia has disaster management obligations through AADMER. The DM Law designates the NCDM as the national lead agency on disaster management and the national focal point for ASEAN disaster management bodies and activities under AADMER.<sup>249</sup>

### ***Strategic Plan on Climate Change for Disaster Management Sector***

The 2012 strategic plan consisted of four strategies to reduce overall Cambodian vulnerability to climate change-influenced hazards. The strategies were:

- Links between CCA and DRR
- Promoting the early warning system
- Building disaster resilience and CCA capacity at all levels through education
- Developing by paying more attention to risk<sup>250</sup>

### ***National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction 2014-2018***

The NAP-DRR sought proactive and integrated ways to reduce risk from hazards through sustainable, innovative, and realistic strategies with stronger partnerships among all stakeholders. The NAP-DRR consisted of five strategic components: consolidating and further enhancing capacity of disaster management institutions at national, sub-national, and local community levels; enhancing risk assessment and improving early warning systems; development and use of innovation and knowledge to build resilience; reduction of the underlying causes of risks; and enhancing emergency response and recovery capabilities at all levels.<sup>251</sup> Based on the NAP-DRR, the NCDM Secretariat would coordinate implementation of national DRR through technical advice, delivery of guidelines, and mobilization of financing for government line ministries to integrate DRR into annual planning. Ministries were required to form working groups to plan their actions. PCDMs and DCDMs were responsible for integrating the NAP-DRR into their annual development and investment plans. Finally, the NAP-DRR described the private sector as an active partner alongside implementing partners from UN system agencies and national and international NGOs. Those NGOs would also develop outreach strategies to cover vulnerable locations, advocate for resource mobilization, facilitate knowledge management, and take part in monitoring and evaluation. Academic institutions and universities were asked to take over research, knowledge development, technical innovation, and academic programming while the mass media supports implementation through supporting public awareness, facilitating exchange of information, and disseminating early warning.<sup>252</sup>

## ***Cambodia Climate Change Strategic Plan 2014-2023***

The CCSP was approved and launched in 2013. It was the first comprehensive national policy document responding to climate change issues, and it was subsequently integrated in the National Sustainable Development Plan (NSDP 2014–2018). The CCSP was designed to address a wide range of climate change issues – e.g., adaptation, GHG mitigation, and low-carbon development<sup>253</sup> – and it was intended to promote a reduction in vulnerability to climate change impacts, especially among the country’s most vulnerable communities and to the country’s critical systems. The plan focused on institutional capacity building to produce climate projections and to develop ideas of adaptation and DRR for vulnerable sectors. The plan set out actions across three phases of implementation – i.e., immediate, medium, and long term. The “long term” phase runs 2019-2023, and implementation is focused on research and learning, but its main objective is to scale up success cases and continue mainstreaming climate change into national and sub-national programs.<sup>254</sup>

## ***National Adaptation Programme of Action to Climate Change***

The NAPA provides a framework to guide coordination and implementation of adaptation initiatives through a participatory approach and to build synergies with other relevant environmental and development programs. The NAPA identified 20 priority projects to address urgent and immediate needs and concerns of people at the grassroots level for adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change in key sectors.<sup>255</sup>

## ***Vision 2050 and the Pentagonal Strategy***

Cambodia’s Vision 2050 is broadly aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (agreed upon at the UN in 2015). To implement Vision 2050, the Pentagonal Strategy (2024–2028) outlines five strategic goals: 1) human capital development; 2) economic diversification and competitiveness

enhancement; 3) development of private sector and employment; 4) resilient, sustainable, and inclusive development; and 5) development of digital economy and society. In phase one of the Strategy, Cambodia seeks to ensure crisis-resilient economic growth of approximately 7% year-on-year on average, create more jobs, reduce the poverty rate to below 10% of the population, strengthen governance and improve public institutions to deliver public services and promote private sector investment, and to build resilience to climate change. Several of these targets echo targets not reached from the Rectangular Strategy Phase IV (RSIV) that was disrupted due to the COVID-19 pandemic during which the poverty rate rose, education and health care stagnated, and the number of communities vulnerable to climate change only marginally decreased.<sup>256</sup>

## ***Rectangular Strategy of Growth, Employment, Equity, and Efficiency Phase IV (2018-2023)***

The RSIV, launched in 2018, laid out strategic policy measures for implementing the political platform of the RGC of the Sixth Legislature of the national assembly, 2018-2023, aimed at laying foundations for achieving Vision 2030 and 2050.<sup>257</sup> The four priorities of this phase were: economic growth of 7%, job creation, reduce the poverty rate to below 10%, and strengthen the capacity and governance of public institutions.<sup>258</sup> RSIV recognized climate change as a challenge and called for development and implementation of integrated water resource management to expand water supply in response to demand, minimize risks caused by flood and drought, and ensure long-term water security.<sup>259</sup>

## **Disaster Management Communications**

NCDM’s Department of Information and Relations has a key role in information sharing and early warning as it is tasked with monitoring weather, meteorology, and hydrology information, compiling hazard news, issuing bulletins regarding disasters inside and outside

the country, producing disaster posters and leaflets, broadcasting emergency warnings and assessments of needs, as available, and communicating with foreign countries and inter-governmental organizations regarding disaster management.<sup>260</sup> NCDM, the Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology (MOWRAM), and Ministry of Information collaborate on delivering relevant information to the Cambodian public to allow them to prepare for potential disasters. NCDM also holds responsibility for ensuring that national and local disaster committees and responders have the appropriate information technology assets to maintain communications before, during, and after a disaster event.<sup>261</sup>

NCDM has access to several information management systems in-house and elsewhere – PRISM, CAMDI, and WebEOC.

The Platform for Real-time Information Systems (PRISM), a collaboration between NCDM and WFP, launched in Cambodia in 2015. PRISM is an information hub that uses an interactive online map to pool data from government ministries and vulnerable people and for use by UN partners, NGOs, and others to prepare for and respond to a disaster. In addition to showing where hazards are developing into disasters, PRISM can project where safe sites are and whether they will have capacity because it contains demographic data, so users can see how many people are in the path of a storm, and where schools, toilets, safe spaces, health posts, and road infrastructure are located. It is available on mobile devices and computers, free of charge, across the country.<sup>262</sup>

Also developed in 2015, the Cambodia Disaster Loss and Damage Information System (CAMDI) is a centralized repository for national data and information on historic disaster events with records dating as far back as 1996. A UNDP-backed update was launched in 2019 to ensure relevancy and accuracy of accessed data. Completed in 2020, this update aligned the data with the Sendai Framework and allows search and analysis of data that is disaggregated by hazard, sex, age, disability, income, and geography.<sup>263</sup>

Finally, Cambodia's disaster managers also have direct links into the AHA Centre's various hazard and disaster information platforms. ASEAN's Disaster Monitoring and Response System (DMRS), designed in partnership with the Pacific Disaster Center (PDC), receives constant information feeds from the PDC system and shows real-time information of the hazards in the region and hydrometeorological data. The basic maps can be overlaid with additional information, such as basic population density data, location of airports and seaports, and major roads and infrastructure. In addition, the ASEAN Disaster Information Net (ADINet) is a repository of information concerning hazards and disasters that have happened. The platform is open, and the public can submit information about any hazard or disaster for AHA Centre validation. ADINet disaster information goes back to 2012.<sup>264</sup> Finally, NCDM has access to the AHA Centre's WebEOC system via dedicated terminals and trained staff within the country.<sup>265</sup> During a disaster, NCDM and its fellow ASEAN national disaster management offices can use WebEOC to monitor situations on the ground, live, based on the information fed by the focal office within the affected country as well as the AHA Centre field teams, including the ASEAN-ERAT. Via the WebEOC, other ASEAN member-states can post offers of assistance to the affected country, and the affected country can post requests for assistance to which other member-states can immediately respond. The WebEOC is only activated when a disaster happens.<sup>266</sup>

## Early Warning Systems

MOWRAM holds responsibility for all weather forecasting, including flood impact assessments and early warning for hydrometeorological events.<sup>267</sup> However, MOWRAM also cooperates closely with NCDM and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) on a multi-hazard early warning system (EWS) standard operating procedure to ensure policy and institutional integration at all levels of government.<sup>268</sup> MOWRAM's Department of Meteorology

(DOM) and Department of Hydrology and River Works (DHRW) produce and disseminate forecasts and early warnings for the entire country. NCDM coordinates this communication. The flow of information to and from MOWRAM's departments is illustrated in Figure 10.<sup>269</sup> A memorandum of understanding between NCDM and the CRC tasks the latter with using its own networks to disseminate disaster warning information to the local level.<sup>270</sup>

Additional flood forecasting comes from the Regional Flood Management and Mitigation Center of the Mekong River Commission (MRC).<sup>271</sup> The MRC's Technical Support Division oversees the Mekong Flood and Drought Management Centre in Phnom Penh.<sup>272</sup> The flood warning system under MRC delivers daily bulletins during flood season (June to October) and weekly during the dry season (November to May).<sup>273</sup>

From 2013 through 2022, with funding from various multilateral and bilateral partners, including USAID, PIN supported

the development of EWS1294, which began as a voice-based mobile phone early warning information dissemination system in three flood-prone villages. By 2022, it had evolved to provide flood information to national and provincial authorities, who can then disseminate warning messages to at-risk communities across the entire country. PIN transferred ownership to the RGC. Flood monitoring is ensured by the EWS1294 Tepmachcha sensors, which are GSM-enabled, solar-powered, sonar-based water gauges that continuously monitor the water level in critical locations. Water level data collected from the sensors is displayed on the EWS1294 Dashboard, from which the dissemination system is accessible via either a computer or a mobile phone. By using the pre-recorded alert message, officials can broadcast a flood warning or alerts for other types of climate and societal hazards; in fact, provincial officials used it during the COVID-19 pandemic to advise the public on preventative measures. Provincial authorities are in charge of creating alert messages to

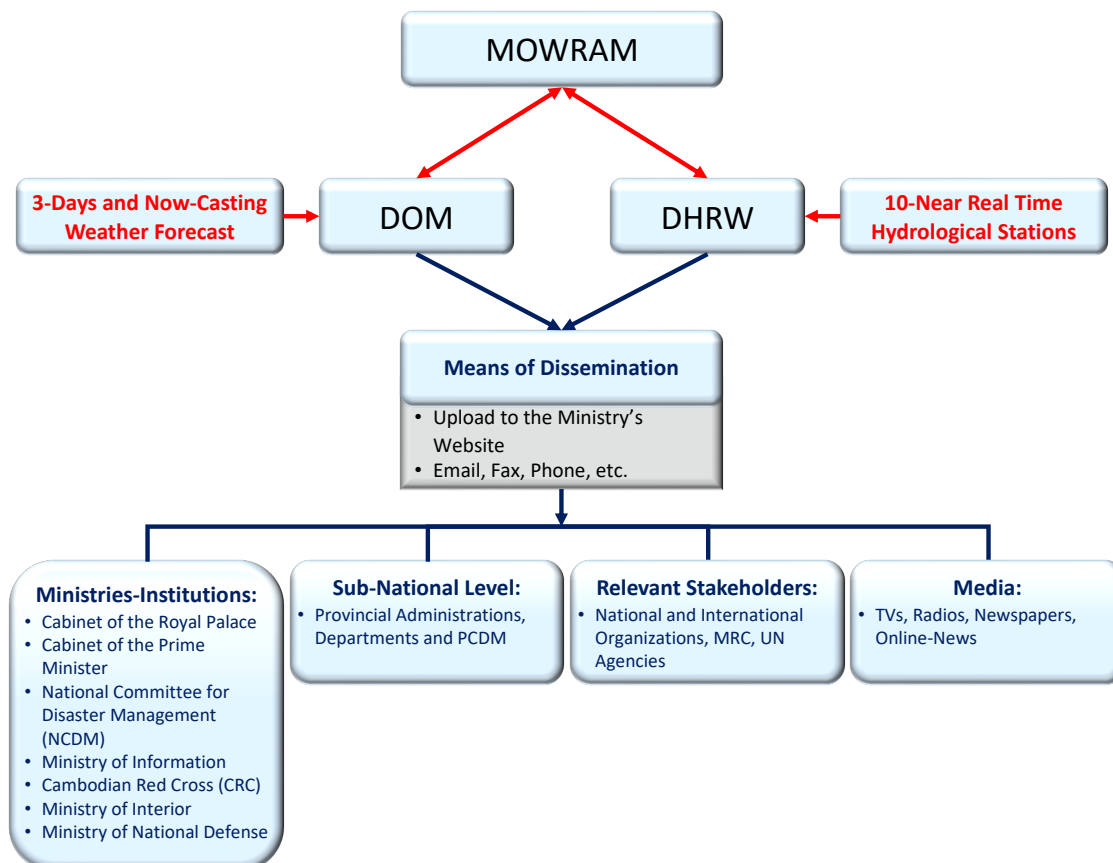


**Figure 10: Early Warning Information Flows**

registered users of ‘1294’ in at-risk locations of their province. Alerts are disseminated via the “1294” code via Interactive Voice Response, an automated telephone system that sends pre-recorded calls to subscribers in at-risk locations. The general public can register by calling “1294” free of charge to receive early warnings disseminated by the provincial authorities in case of risks. In October 2021, NCDM added an urban EWS component to the 1294 structure by using public loudspeakers, and in January 2022, radio broadcasting was introduced for EWS1294.<sup>274</sup>

Additional information before, during, and after a disaster can come from other line ministries. The Ministry of Health notifies provincial authorities and the public about health preparedness before and during disasters; it disseminates this information via radio and social media. The Department of Extension for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (a technical unit under MAFF) uses Facebook, Telegram, its website, YouTube, and the radio to share information about the weather, planting methods, and animal care.<sup>275</sup>

Information Sharing

Understanding how to overcome the information challenges that civilian and military agencies experience during a typical disaster response mission is important. Sharing information is critical since no single responding entity, NGO, international governmental organization, assisting country government, or the host government can be the source of all the required information.<sup>276</sup> Collaboration, information sharing, and networking have been the backbone of successful disaster response and preparation. Disseminating information not only to those in-country and threatened by disaster, but also to those responding to assist in the emergency has been crucial to timely, efficient, and effective disaster response. There are many resources, stakeholders, and components to consider before, during, and after a natural disaster. This section will discuss country-specific, humanitarian, regional, government, and U.S. DoD information sources.

Cambodia Information Sources

NCDM

The NCDM webpage includes links to emergency information apps (Google Playstore) as well as weather forecasts and news surrounding disaster management in the country. Nearly all content is in Khmer.

79-89 Rue Pasteur No. 51, Phnom Penh,  
Cambodia  
Tel: +855 23 864 298  
Instagram: [ncdm.cambodia](#)  
Telegram: [ncdmkh](#)  
X/Twitter: [@ncdmcambodia](#)  
YouTube: [@NCDMKH](#)  
Website: <https://ncdm.gov.kh/>

Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology

MOWRAM’s Department of Meteorology webpage hosts daily forecasts and any severe weather watches and warnings that are in effect.

# 47 Preah Norodom Blvd, Phnom Penh,  
Cambodia  
Email: [info@mowram.gov.kh](mailto:info@mowram.gov.kh)  
Website: <http://www.cambodiameteo.com/>

Cambodian Red Cross

CRC is an auxiliary of the government in disaster management. It receives disaster communications directly from the government and is expected to disseminate warnings via its own communication channels.

Lot 16A, Street 652@271, O Bek Kaam, Sangkat  
Toek Laak 3, Khan Tuol Kork, Phnom Penh,  
Cambodia  
Tel: +855 23 881 511  
Email: [info@redcross.org.kh](mailto:info@redcross.org.kh) or [crc\\_adm@online.com.kh](mailto:crc_adm@online.com.kh)  
X/Twitter: [@cambodianRCross](#)  
Facebook: [crcnhq](#)  
Website: [www.redcross.org.kh](http://www.redcross.org.kh)

## ***Cambodian Humanitarian Forum***

CHF represents and coordinates more than 100 local NGOs. On its website, it posts updates about humanitarian training and activity as well as updates on hazard events.

#72, St 360, Phnom Penh, Cambodia  
Tel: +855 17 666 533  
Email: [chf.secretariat@gmail.com](mailto:chf.secretariat@gmail.com)  
Website: <https://chfcambodia.net/>

## **Humanitarian Information Sources**

### ***United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP)***

UN OCHA's ROAP seeks to optimize the speed, volume and quality of humanitarian assistance and coordinates emergency preparedness and response throughout the region in support of national governments. ROAP covers 41 countries with whom it partners for coordinated and effective international responses to emergency situations.

Website: <https://www.unocha.org/asia-and-pacific>

For OCHA situation reports, click on "Subscribe" button on bottom of page.  
X/Twitter: @OCHAAsiaPac

### ***ReliefWeb***

ReliefWeb is a service of UN OCHA that consolidates information and analysis from organizations, countries, and disasters for the humanitarian community.

A subsection of ReliefWeb is ReliefWeb Response. It aggregates operational content from other humanitarian action platforms to provide an authoritative source of information. The goal is to ensure that humanitarians can share, find, and re-use critical information quickly and efficiently.

Website: <https://reliefweb.int/>  
RW Response: <https://response.reliefweb.int/>

### ***PreventionWeb***

PreventionWeb is provided by UNDRR to consolidate disaster risk reduction information into an online, easy to understand platform.

Website: <https://www.preventionweb.net/>

### ***International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies***

IFRC is the world's largest humanitarian organization, comprised of 191 National Societies, including CRC, a secretariat in Geneva, Switzerland, and over 60 delegations around the world. The IFRC carries out relief operations to assist victims of disasters and combines this with development work to strengthen the capacities of the National Societies. IFRC's work focuses on four core areas: promoting humanitarian values, disaster response, disaster preparedness, and health and community care.<sup>277</sup>

Website: <https://media.ifrc.org/ifrc> and <https://go.ifrc.org/>  
Facebook: IFRC  
X/Twitter: @ifrcgo

### ***International Committee of the Red Cross***

The ICRC is an impartial, neutral, and independent organization whose exclusively humanitarian mission is to protect the lives and dignity of victims of armed conflict and other situations of violence and to provide them with assistance. It also works to prevent suffering by promoting and strengthening international humanitarian law (also known as the law of armed conflict) and universal humanitarian principles.<sup>278</sup>

Website: <https://www.icrc.org/en>  
Facebook: ICRC  
X/Twitter: @ICRC

### ***Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System (GDACS)***

GDACS is a cooperation framework among the UN, the European Commission, and disaster managers worldwide to improve alerts,

information exchange, and coordination in the first phase after major sudden-onset disasters.

Website: <https://www.gdacs.org/alerts/>

### ***Virtual On-Site Operations Coordination Centre (OSOCC)***

The Virtual OSOCC is a real-time online coordination tool for disaster response professionals from urban search and rescue teams, national authorities, and regional and international organizations.

Website: <https://vosocc.unocha.org/>  
To subscribe: <https://www.gdacs.org/About/contactus.aspx>

### ***ThinkHazard!***

ThinkHazard! is a website run by the Global Facility for Disaster Risk Reduction (GFDRR). It provides detailed information on a country. Information is provided on Cambodia regarding hazards, country assessments, projects, early warning, and other resources.

Website: <https://thinkhazard.org>

### ***Humanitarian Country Teams (HCT)***

HCT is a strategic and operational decision-making and oversight forum established and led by the Humanitarian Coordinator in each country. It is generally comprised of representatives from UN agencies including the IOM, international NGOs, and the IFRC and the National Red Cross/Crescent Society. During a disaster response, HCTs often produce a Situation Report (SitRep), usually in conjunction with OCHA.

Most HCT SitReps can be found through ReliefWeb: <https://reliefweb.int/>

### ***Humanitarian Data Exchange (HDX)***

HDX is an open platform for sharing data across crises and organizations. Launched in 2014 with the goal of centralizing humanitarian data for easy access and analysis, HDX is

managed by OCHA's Center for Humanitarian Data in The Hague.

Website: <https://data.humdata.org/>

## **Regional Information Sources**

### ***AHA Centre***

The AHA Centre, based in Jakarta, is the collaboration and coordination platform for the 10 ASEAN member-states, including Cambodia. Cambodia's NCDM is the focal point for AHA Centre communications and policies.

Graha BNPB, 13th floor Jl. Raya Pramuka Kav. 38  
East Jakarta 13120 Indonesia  
Tel: +62 21 21012278  
Email: [info@ahacentre.org](mailto:info@ahacentre.org)  
Instagram: @ahacentre  
X/Twitter: @AHACentre  
ADINet: <https://adinet.ahacentre.org/>

### ***Mekong River Commission***

The MRC's Mekong Flood and Drought Management Centre fulfills MRC's Objective 3, that member countries strengthen basin-wide monitoring, forecasting, impact assessment, and dissemination of hazard information.

P.O. Box 623, No. 576, National Road No. 2,  
Sangkat Chak Angre Krom, Khan Mean Chey  
Phnom Penh 12353, Cambodia  
Tel: +855 23 425 353  
Email: [floodforecast@mrcmekong.org](mailto:floodforecast@mrcmekong.org)  
Website: [http://ffw.mrcmekong.org/bulletin\\_wet.php](http://ffw.mrcmekong.org/bulletin_wet.php)

### ***Changi Regional HADR Coordination Centre (RHCC)***

Changi RHCC was launched in September 2014 to support the military of a disaster-affected state in coordinating assistance with assisting foreign militaries. It aims to provide open, inclusive, and flexible platforms that allow both regional and extra-regional militaries to work together effectively in a multinational disaster response. Changi RHCC manages the OPERA Command and Control Information

System web portal to broadcast the updated situation status of multinational military disaster responses to minimize duplication and gaps in the provision of foreign military assistance. As a member-state of ASEAN, Cambodia is included in Changi RHCC's monitoring and cooperation frameworks, including information fusion products, access to the OPERA system, and planning processes for any multinational military disaster response.

Website: <https://www.changirhcc.org/>

Facebook: OfficialChangiRHCC

To subscribe to RHCC Weekly and Spot Reports, email: [Changi\\_RHCC@defence.gov.sg](mailto:Changi_RHCC@defence.gov.sg)

## **U.S. Government Sources**

### ***U.S. Agency for International Development***

USAID is committed to responding to crises around the world to help people and places most in need. They aim to:

- Promote Global Health
- Support Global Stability
- Provide Humanitarian Assistance
- Catalyze Innovation and Partnership
- Empower Women and Girls

USAID produces a monthly “USAID Newsletter,” available digitally: <https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/newsletter>. More information and updates from USAID are available on Facebook (@USAID), Instagram (@usaid), X/Twitter (@usaid), and YouTube (USaidVideo).

Website: <https://www.usaid.gov/>

### ***USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance***

USAID/BHA is responsible for leading and coordinating the U.S. Government response to disasters overseas. BHA works with the international population to help countries prepare for, respond to, and recover from humanitarian crises. BHA responds to an average of 75 disasters in 70 countries every year. BHA fulfils its mandate of saving lives, alleviating human suffering, and reducing the social and

economic impact of disasters worldwide in partnership with USAID functional and regional bureaus and other U.S. government agencies. The U.S. DoD only responds to international disasters when requested, in support of USAID.

USAID/BHA products include situation reports and maps, which are available via email mailing lists as well as ReliefWeb. Information products (Updates/Fact Sheets, etc.) are also available on USAID.gov (<https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance>)

### ***Pacific Disaster Center***

The Pacific Disaster Center, branded PDC Global has trademarked an early warning and decision support system called DisasterAWARE®. DisasterAWARE® is primarily for disaster management practitioners and senior decision makers. It supports DRR and best practices throughout all phases of disaster management from early warning to multi-hazard monitoring. It has a collection of scientifically verified, geospatial, data and modeling tools to assess hazard risks and impacts. A restricted version of DisasterAWARE is the EMOPS (Emergency Operations) system, which is specifically for the disaster management community, including government agencies and humanitarian assistance organizations serving at local, state, federal, and regional levels.<sup>279</sup>

PDC also provides a public version, Disaster Alert, which offers open access to a world map documenting 18 hazard types.<sup>280</sup> Disaster Alert also has a free, early-warning app to receive customizable, maps-based, visual alerts regarding active hazards. The app offers a global notification system covering natural and man-made hazards. It is available on both iPhone and Android.<sup>281</sup>

X/Twitter: @PDC\_Global

Facebook: PDCGlobal

Website: <https://www.pdc.org/> and <https://www.pdc.org/disasteraware/>

Emergency Operations (EMOPS) system (request account): <https://disasteraware.pdc.org>

***All Partners Access Network (APAN)***

APAN is the Unclassified Information Sharing Service for the U.S. DoD. APAN provides the DoD and mission partners community space and collaboration tools to leverage information to effectively plan, train, and respond to meet their business requirements and mission objectives. APAN’s technology team has been supporting HADR operations for over 15 years.<sup>282</sup> APAN has played an integral role in the success of disaster responses, such as the 2015 California Wildfire Response and the 2013 Typhoon Haiyan Response in which they provided organizations and militaries a centralized location to share information, increase situational awareness and decrease response time and duplicated efforts for best practices in HADR services.<sup>283</sup>

Website: <https://www.apan.org/>

***Joint Typhoon Warning Center***

JTWC provides advanced warning of tropical storm and typhoon activity for U.S. Government agencies and organizations.

Website: <https://www.metoc.navy.mil/jtwc/jtwc.html>

***Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies (DKI-APCSS)***

DKI-APCSS is a U.S. DoD institute that addresses regional and global security issues by inviting military and civilian representatives of the U.S. and Asia-Pacific nations to its program of executive education and workshops.

Website: <https://dkiapcss.edu/>

***The Center for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance (CFE-DM)***

The CFE-DM is a U.S. DoD organization established by the U.S. Congress in 1994 and is a direct reporting unit to USINDOPACOM. CFE-DM provides training and education to help U.S. and foreign military personnel navigate complex issues in disaster management and humanitarian assistance (DMHA). They produce country-focused disaster management reference handbooks, after action reports, best practices, and lessons learned for advancement in response coordination. CFE-DM also works to improve cross-coordination, reduce duplication of efforts, and promote U.S. involvement in civil-military consultations and dialogues with relevant humanitarian and disaster response parties such as UN OCHA and the Changi RHCC. CFE-DM provides resources and updates at its website, as well as via their Facebook (cfedmha) and Twitter (@cfedmha) accounts.

Website: <https://www.cfe-dmha.org/>  
Disaster Management Reference Handbooks are available for download at: <https://www.cfe-dmha.org/Publications/Disaster-Management-Reference-Handbooks>  
Civil-Military Coordination in Foreign Disaster Relief Missions: Best Practices for Information Sharing is available here: <https://www.cfe-dmha.org/Publications/Best-Practices-Pamphlets>

# INFRASTRUCTURE

While the central government has regulatory authority as well as some oversight of investment in and planning for national infrastructure assets, operations and maintenance are generally devolved to province and district offices.

## Transport

The Ministry of Public Works and Transport (MPWT) is the government ministry responsible for building, maintaining, and managing transport infrastructure. It governs the Departments of Land Transport, Railways, and Waterway and Maritime Transport and Ports. MPWT's General Department of Planning and Policy manages and facilitates planning, information systems, policies, monitoring, and evaluation. Public works and transport activities at the municipal and provincial levels are governed by separate departments established at municipal and provincial councils.<sup>284</sup> The State Secretariat of Civil Aviation is separate from MPWT and has responsibility for regulation of civil aviation and development of civil aviation activities and infrastructure.<sup>285</sup>

Road transport accounts for 65% of freight and 87% of passenger traffic.<sup>286</sup> Railway transport has the potential to play an important role for future transport as the country tries to reach green goals. However, rail's current share of passenger and freight miles is minimal. Containers and fuel are transported by rail on the Northern Line from Phnom Penh to Poipet, on the border with Thailand, and the Southern Line from Phnom Penh to Sihanoukville Port. The country's two main international ports - Phnom Penh inland and Sihanoukville on the coast - and three international airports - Phnom Penh, Siem Reap, and Sihanoukville - are important for international trade.

Cambodia's national strategic goals were set in RSIV, launched in 2018, and its successor Pentagon Strategy, under which the government aims to enhance transport

connectivity and build vibrant logistics systems. In the past two decades, various multilateral or bilateral development partners have provided funding and technical expertise for the transport sector. Among these partners are the Agence Française de Développement, the Asian Development Bank, the Government of Australia, the Export-Import Bank of Korea, the Japan International Cooperation Agency, KfW Development Bank, the Nordic Development Fund, the Government of the People's Republic of China, and the World Bank.<sup>287</sup>

## Airports

The State Secretariat of Civil Aviation is the regulator and is responsible for the development and management of airport facilities and the administration of aviation activities, including licensing of crew, aircraft certification for airworthiness, design of aerodromes, clearance for obstructions, and other rules to ensure safety in air travel. The secretariat also regulates the rates for the use of government airport and air navigation facilities.

Passenger transport is the mainstay of international airports, and freight traffic is minimal. The operations of the main airports are undertaken by private companies, which are also responsible for maintenance. Phnom Penh International Airport can host about 5 million passengers a year and can handle 10 aircraft simultaneously.<sup>288</sup> Sihanoukville International handles upwards of 1.6 million passengers annually.<sup>289</sup> Siem Reap - Angkor International Airport east of Angkor Wat opened in October 2023 with the capacity to handle 7 million passengers annually and plans to expand to 12 million annually from 2040. At 40 km (25 miles) from the ancient Angkor sites, it replaced the old Siem Reap airport that was much closer to the archeological complex and had raised concerns for their long-term conservation. The project is under the umbrella of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and was financed by a

Cambodian investment firm affiliated to Yunnan Investment Holdings, Ltd. (China).<sup>290</sup>

The new Phnom Penh airport, Techo Takhmao (Ta Khmau) International Airport, began construction in 2019. It is located 30-40 km (18-25 miles) south of the capital on 2,600 hectares of land reclaimed from a lake. Estimates as of late 2023 were for the new airport to open in 2025,<sup>291</sup> although the builder, China Construction Third Engineering Bureau Group Co., Ltd., indicated that the first phase could begin operating in 2024. The project is under the umbrella of China's BRI.<sup>292</sup> Launched as part of a broader free trade zone in 2009, the Dara-Sakor International Airport in Koh Kong province is being developed by China's Tianjin Union Development Group on 4.5 hectares of land; it is expected to be able to accommodate aircraft as large as the Boeing 777 or Airbus A340,<sup>293</sup> and have an annual passenger capacity of 10 million. Although expected to open in 2023, it remains un-opened at the time of writing this handbook.<sup>294</sup>

Cambodia Airport, a joint venture owned 70% by VINCI Airports of France and 30% by Muhibbah MMC of Malaysia/Cambodia, ran the country's three international air gateways at Phnom Penh, Siem Reap, and Sihanoukville<sup>295</sup> until 2023 when a Chinese-backed company took over Siem Reap-Angkor.<sup>296</sup>

Table 2 provides some details of Cambodia's three main airports.<sup>297</sup>

## Seaports

Two main ports handle Cambodia's maritime trade: the Phnom Penh Autonomous Port (PPAP) and Sihanoukville Autonomous Port (PAS). These ports are financially autonomous state-owned companies in charge of investments, operation, and maintenance. In 2018, the volume through PPAP amounted to 12,899,000 tons and 205,000 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEU). PPAP operates two terminals - the original city terminal and a container terminal, 30 km (18.6 miles) southeast of Phnom Penh along the Mekong River and National Road 1. The other seaports - Oknha Mong, Sre Ambel, and Koh

Kong (all in Koh Kong Province) - are important for the import of goods, especially construction materials from Thailand. PPAP is not connected to the national rail network.<sup>298</sup>

### Sihanoukville Autonomous Port

Latitude: 10° 29' 12.9" N

Longitude: 103° 30' 21.9" E

PAS is the main deep-sea port; it covers 125 hectares of total land area. Over the period 2016-2020, the volume of cargo throughput increased, and in 2020, the volume of cargo throughput reached 6.6 million tons while of container throughput was 641,842 TEUs. The port can accommodate general cargo vessels of 50,000 deadweight tonnage (DWT) and container vessels of 16,000 DWT with loading capacity approximately 1,550 TEUs. Table 3 shows the berths and details of piers at PAS.<sup>299</sup>

- PAS has various loading, unloading, and handling equipment, including quay gantry cranes, other mobile cranes, reach stackers for full and empty containers, and multiple forklifts.
- Container yard: 217,000 m<sup>2</sup> (2.3 million square feet) with storage capacity up to 21,800 TEUs
- Warehouse: 36,000 m<sup>2</sup> (287,500 square feet) with a capacity of 72,000 tons
- PAS can provide refrigerated storage for Reefer Containers, except for grain and food storage in bulk. There are 192 plugins for Reefer Containers.<sup>300</sup>
- The port is linked to the country's multi-modal transport network via National Routes 3 and 4 and by the southern rail route.<sup>301</sup>

### Phnom Penh Autonomous Port

Ships of up to 3,000 metric tons (MT) can transit from the South China Sea up the Mekong River to Phnom Penh. To transit from Phnom Penh north on to the Tonlé Sap, barges ranging 150-500 MT capacity can be used. During the dry season, draft can be up to 4.5 m (14.7 feet) and, during the rainy season, up to 5.5 m (18 feet).

The Multipurpose Terminal has only one quay (length: 300m / 985 feet; draft: 4.5-5.5m / 14.7-18 feet) that can accommodate three or four ships of up to 5,000 DWT for berthing at one time. It handles both container and general cargo traffic. There are mobile cranes and forklifts available for cargo handling.

Latitude: 11° 34' 59.6" N

Longitude: 104° 55' 17.0" E

The Container Terminal is located at Kandal Leu Village, Banteay Dek Commune, Kien Svay District, Kandal Province, along the Lower

Mekong, 30 km (18.6 miles) from Phnom Penh Old Port. Quay No. 1 can accommodate four or five ships for berthing at one time.<sup>302</sup> The container yard is 19,200 m<sup>2</sup> (206,667 square feet) with storage capacity up to 1,500 TEUs. There are six dockside cranes for containers and breakbulk, 12 rubber-tires gantry cranes for containers, and other cranes for general cargo. Reach stackers and forklifts are available for handling. Table 4 provides some details of the berths.<sup>303</sup>

Latitude: 11° 28' 23.5" N

Longitude: 105° 8' 49.9" E

| Airport                                          | Latitude / Longitude               | IATA/ICAO Code | Elevation      | Runway Length                                                                      | Runway Surface     |
|--------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Phnom Penh International                         | 11° 32' 46.9" N / 104° 50' 38.0" E | PNH / VDPP     | 12 m (40 feet) | 3,120 × 300 m (10,236 × 984 feet); usable length – 3,000 × 60 m (9,843 × 197 feet) | Asphalt / concrete |
| Sihanoukville International                      | 10° 34' 28.9" N / 103° 38' 3.0" E  | KOS / VDSV     | 3 m (10 feet)  | 3,300 × 45 m (10,827 × 148 feet)                                                   | Asphalt            |
| Siem Reap-Angkor International                   | 13° 22' 9.0" N / 104° 13' 23.0" E  | SAI / VDSA     | 18 m (60 feet) | 3,600 × 45 m (11,810 × 148 feet)                                                   | n/a                |
| Siem Reap International (replaced by SAI / VDSA) | 13° 24' 26.2" N / 103° 48' 53.2" E | REP / VDSR     | 18 m (60 feet) | 2,550 × 45 m (8,366 × 148 feet)                                                    | Asphalt            |
| Dara Sakor International                         | 10° 54' 52.2" N / 103° 13' 36.3" E | DSY / n/a      | n/a            | 3,207 m (approximately; 10,522 feet)                                               | n/a                |

**Table 2: Codes and Runway Lengths for Cambodia's Main Airports**

|                       | Type of Berth             | Quantity | Length (m / feet) | Maximum Draft (m / feet) | Comments                       |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|----------|-------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Old Pier              | Passenger Ship Berth      | 2        | 290 / 950         | 8 / 26                   | Berths 1 and 3 / Western       |
|                       | Conventional Berth        | 2        | 290 / 950         | 7 / 23                   | Berths 2 and 4 / Eastern       |
| New Wharf / Container | Container Berth           | 4        | 750 / 2,460       | 9.3 / 30.5               | Berths 5, 6, 7, and 8 / Inside |
|                       | Multipurpose Berth        | 2        | 330 / 1,080       | 10.5 / 34                | Berths 9 and 10                |
| Tanker Terminal       | Bulk Oil Jetty            | 1        | 53 / 175          | 4.2 / 14                 | Concrete wharf                 |
|                       | Bulk Oil Jetty            | 1        | 200 / 650         | 9 / 30                   | Sokimex                        |
| Tela                  | Bulk Oil Jetty Terminal 1 | 1        | 200 / 650         | 11.3 / 37                |                                |
|                       | Bulk Oil Jetty Terminal 2 | 1        | 200 / 650         | 8.5 / 28                 |                                |

**Table 3: Terminals and Jetties at Sihanoukville Port**

| Type of Berth          | Quantity | Length (m / feet) | Maximum Draft (m / feet) | Comments                   |
|------------------------|----------|-------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Conventional Berth     | 2        | 200 / 656         | 4.5-5.5 / 14.7-18        | General cargo              |
| Container Berth Quay 1 | 1        | 300 / 984         | 4.5-5.5 / 14.7-18        | 5 vessels at the same time |
| Container Berth Quay 2 | 1        | 149 / 489         | 4.5-5.5 / 14.7-18        | 2 vessels at the same time |

**Table 4: Phnom Penh Container Terminal Berths**

The Multipurpose Terminal is located along National Route 5, in Kilometer 6 commune, Russey Keo District, Phnom Penh. It is a strategic area between manufacturers and consumers. TS11 has only one jetty for handling both conventional and containerized cargoes; it is 60.8 m (200 feet) in length and can handle vessels up to 12 m (39.3 feet) draft. There is one dockside crane, three mobile cranes, one reach stacker, and one forklift available for handling. The container yard is 10,800 m<sup>2</sup> (116,250 square feet) with storage capacity up to 645 TEUs (in three layers).<sup>304</sup>

## Roads

Road transport serves both domestic movement of goods and people and cross-border transport with neighboring Mekong Basin countries. In some areas, roads are the only available transport mode. MPWT's Road Master Plan indicates priorities in the short (2015–2020), medium (2021–2025), and long term (2026–2030) and recognizes that all roads will require significant design, construction, and upkeep processes.

Cambodia has more than 61,000 km (37,900 miles) of road. The primary network has 2,254 km (1,400 miles) of national paved roads (single-digit designated roads) that connect the country's borders, neighbors, and the broader ASEAN network; some 72% of the 5,007 km (3,111 miles) of inland national roads (double-digit designated roads) are paved, and 30% of the 9,031 km (5,612 miles) of provincial roads (triple- and quadruple-digit designated roads) are paved. The MPWT is responsible for the management of national and provincial roads. The remaining network, consisting of about 45,241 km (28,111 miles) of rural roads, is the responsibility of the Ministry of Rural Development.<sup>305</sup>

A 2023 report from UNDP highlighted that roads are not only critical for passenger and cargo transport throughout the country, but they are also one of the networks most affected by the hazards that commonly affect the country – floods and typhoons. CAMDI data from 2000 to 2014 indicate that a combined length of 10,191

km (6,332 miles) of roads were submerged in floods or rainwater during the period under study; 47% of those kilometers were damaged, and 21% were destroyed. As an example, the UNDP cited Typhoon Ketsana, which, in 2009, caused damage to road networks in 18 provinces with losses amounting to US\$11.07 million. Losses were primarily attributed to higher operating costs and longer freight and passenger travel times associated with hazardous road conditions. In 2011, floods again affected 18 provinces with damage estimated at US\$328.6 million. The challenge for disaster and infrastructure planners is that even if flooding and storms do not structurally damage a road, they can still disrupt their functioning for the duration of the disaster event and force responders to use alternate routes for rescue, relief, and recovery.<sup>306</sup>

## Railways

Cambodia has two railway lines with a total length of 652 km (405 miles). The 264-km (164-mile) Southern Line from Phnom Penh to Sihanoukville Port was built between 1965 and 1969, and the 386-km (240-mile) Northern Line from Phnom Penh to Poipet, on the border with Thailand, was built in the 1930s. There is also a 6.5-km (4-mile) branch line linking the Phnom Penh railway station with petroleum depot facilities along the Tonlé Sap River. At the Poipet border with Thailand, a 1.3-km (0.8-mile) cross-border rail link connects to Arayaprathet, Thailand.<sup>307</sup> Figure 11 shows the WFP / Logistics Cluster map of Cambodia's railways, as of February 2022.<sup>308</sup>

Under a public–private partnership, a private concessionaire has gained exclusive rights to run commercial railway services under a 30-year agreement. The Railway Department is the supervisor and regulator with respect to safety and the use of assets conceded from the former state railway operator.

Containers consistently account for more than 50% of freight, and diesel fuel is the main bulk commodity.

With help from the Korea International

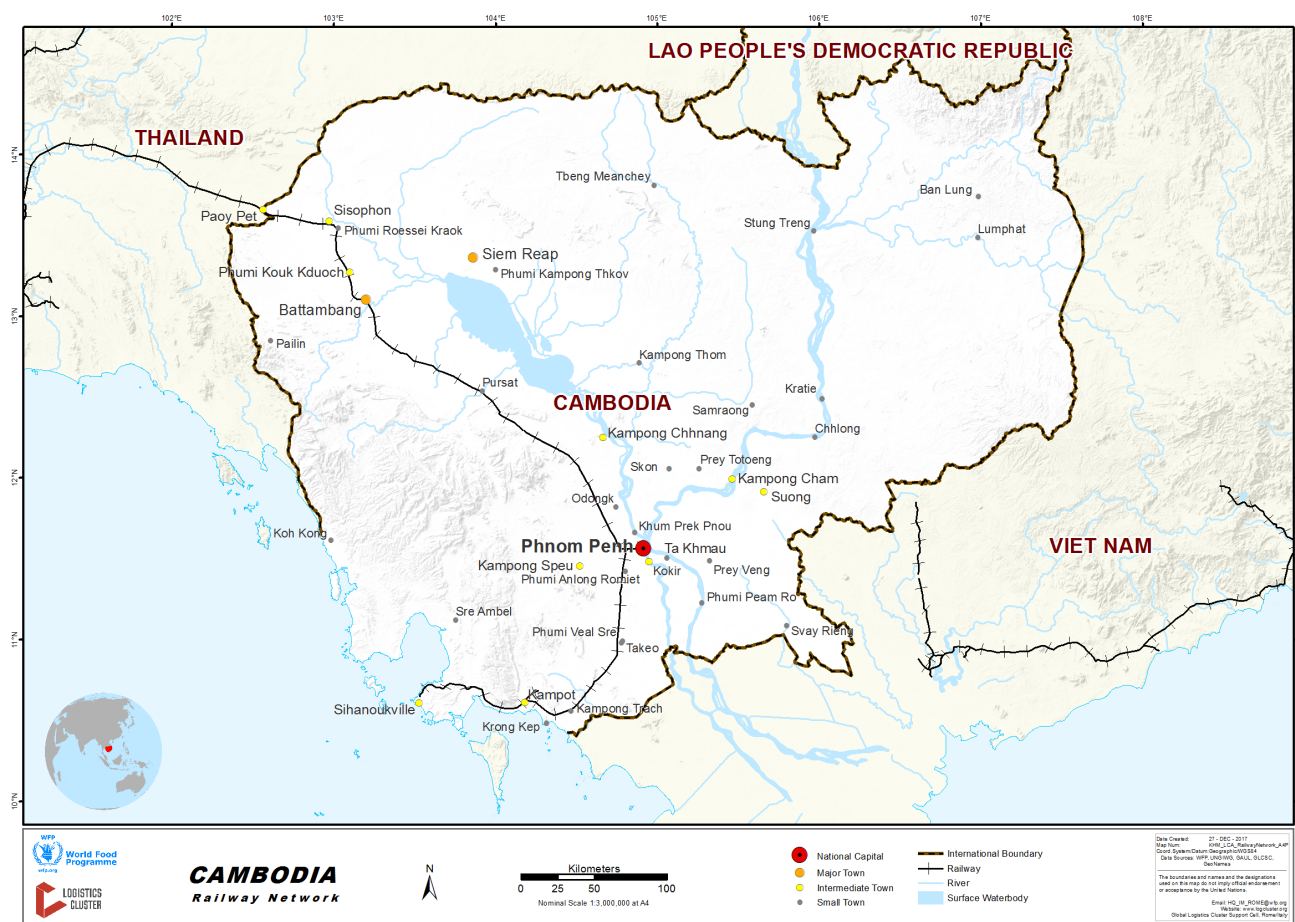


Figure 11: Map of Cambodia's Railways

Cooperation Agency, the government prepared a railway master plan in 2014; it provides a list of priority projects. Based on this list, the government accords highest priority to the construction of 1) a railway link from Phnom Penh to PPAP container terminal 35 km (21.7 miles) to the north; 2) a new 258-km (160-mile) railway link from Phnom Penh to the Vietnam border, including bridges totaling 20 km (12.4 miles) in length; and 3) a multimodal logistics facility at Steung Bod on the border with Thailand.<sup>309</sup>

## Waterways

Cambodia's inland waterway transport serves the local economy and some external trade. The Mekong River system (MRS) is a vast network of rivers, tributaries, and canals totaling 3,700 km (2,299 miles). In the absence of roads, entire

communities are dependent on these rivers. Major canals were dug in the Mekong River Delta during the 18th century, and these networks remain in use. The canals, small rivers, and tributaries throughout the MRS are important for local boat transport and for the movement of natural resources between communities and urban areas. Upstream from Phnom Penh, natural obstructions – e.g., sharp bends, rapids, and shoals – impede navigation along the Mekong River, limiting traffic to small vessels and boats. In contrast, downstream from Phnom Penh to Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, the Mekong River is navigable by larger ships of up to 2,000 DWT. Larger ships can pass the entrance to the Mekong only under favorable tidal conditions.<sup>310</sup> Figure 12 shows a WFP / Logistics Cluster map of Cambodia's inland waterways.<sup>311</sup>

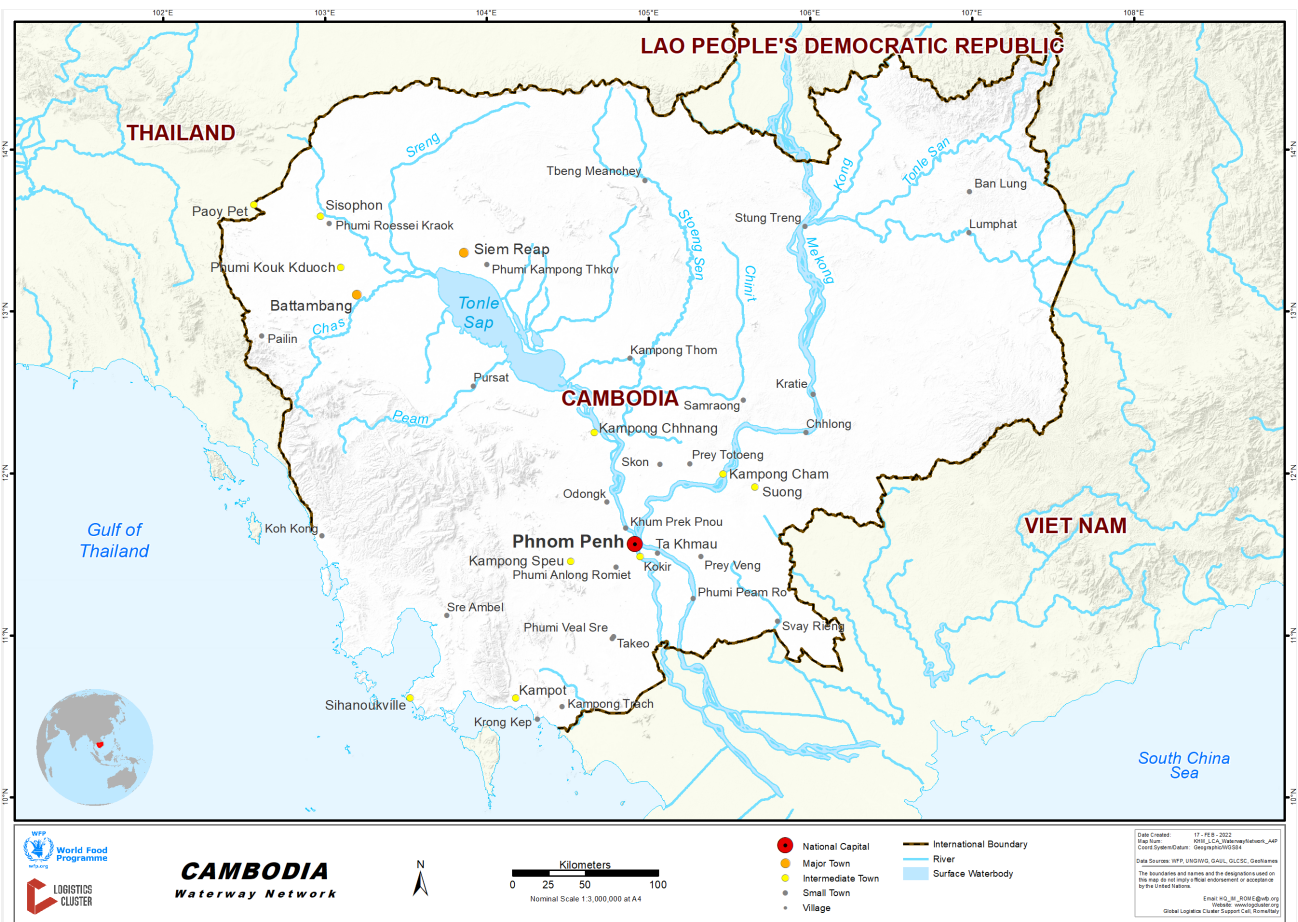


Figure 12: Map of Cambodia's Inland Waterways

## Schools

The Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sport (MoEYS) is responsible for setting policies and regulatory frameworks, developing strategic plans, providing teachers, facilities, school buildings, and school budgets, and delivering curricula and teacher training. It is responsible for reviewing and defining resources for sub-national administration and is responsible for technical decentralization for schools. Provincial Offices of Education, Youth, and Sport (POE) sit between MoEYS and District Offices of Education, Youth, and Sport (DOE); POEs provide facilitation and support. They supervise provincial councils and boards. DOEs are intermediaries between MoEYS and schools; they provide coordination and support. Schools are autonomous in their management and leadership in both technical and administrative fields.<sup>312</sup> In both the Rectangular (up to 2023)

and Pentagonal (2023 onward) Strategies, the Royal Government has noted that the education sector must play a sustained role in helping move the country to higher levels of socio-economic development by contributing to skills acquisition.<sup>313</sup>

The structure of schooling includes primary, secondary, and vocational or tertiary levels. Primary is the first six years (grades 1-6), followed by six years of secondary (grades 7-12),<sup>314</sup> three of which are compulsory and after which students can opt for vocational training programs. Students who complete 12 years of general schooling can sit for national examinations for entry into tertiary programs – 2- or 4-year degree programs or a 7-year medical degree program. Overall net enrollment in tertiary education is only 13%.<sup>315</sup>

In the 2018-2019 school years, there were 14,522 schools, of which 13,300 were public and 1,222 were private. Rural areas were home to

11,878 schools, whereas only 1,422 schools were in urban areas. Of public schools, 1,771 were secondary, and the remainder were primary.

The Kingdom has almost achieved universal access to primary education with a primary school net enrollment rate of 97% in the 2017–2018 school year.<sup>316</sup> Girls have broadly equal access to educational opportunities with a gender parity index of 0.99 girls per boy in primary, 1.13 girls per boy in lower-secondary (grades 7–9), and 1.5 girls per boy in upper-secondary (grades 10–12); thus, girls actually outnumber boys in secondary school levels. Nonetheless, in 2015, over 60% of children of lower-secondary school age were out of school,<sup>317</sup> and general secondary education dropout rates are around 20%. Many older students report choosing to drop out from school to find a job to earn income to support their family.<sup>318</sup> A complicating factor is that schools are taught in Khmer, and students from minority ethnic groups often leave school because they do not understand instruction.<sup>319</sup>

A 2016 school mapping exercise carried out by the MoEYS and the World Bank found that 70% of sampled schools experienced shortages of rooms, implying overcrowded classrooms. Moreover, there were serious teacher shortages. About 86% of all schools struggled to cope with an inadequate supply of teachers, while many teachers felt underpaid and overburdened by heavy teaching loads plus additional tasks. Many held low qualifications. As of 2015, there were approximately 40,000 secondary school teachers.<sup>320</sup> The pupil-teacher ratio averages 34:1, but there is a significant difference between rural and urban areas, 36.9:1 and 25.4:1, respectively.<sup>321</sup>

MoEYS has developed Education Strategic Plans (ESP) for four-year periods to respond to the capacity building and human resource development priority areas in the Rectangular and Pentagonal Strategies. The 2019–2023 ESP took stock of the previous four-year plan's targets and achievements and found that the country had achieved a 98% primary school enrollment rate and an 80% completion rate, a 56.8% lower secondary school enrollment rate and 28.5% upper secondary school enrollment rate. The

dropout rate for lower and upper secondary still sat at more than 15% and 18%, respectively, with factors such as distance to schools, lack of qualified teachers, and lack of other resources as reasons for dropping out. In the tertiary education sector, there are more than 125 institutions – mixed public and private – that serve more than 200,000 students each year.<sup>322</sup>

## Disaster Risk Reduction in the Education Sector

Disaster events can have direct and indirect impacts on education; not only can floods or storms damage or destroy school buildings and resources, but these events can also cut off transport links that children use to get to school or cause displacement or human casualties that disrupt children's lives and result in them dropping out.

Every year, flooding impacts an estimated 30,000 students in Cambodia, and a government survey found that all provinces have at least one school facility that is at risk of significant annual flooding. Exposure is highest along the Mekong River and Tonlé Sap; Kratie and Stung Treng Provinces have the highest percentages of students whose instruction time is threatened by flooding – 33% and 25%, respectively.<sup>323</sup> The school year runs ten months, November through August; in part, the calendar reflects the historic climate but is increasingly challenged due to recent variability, especially floods and drought. Schools in flood-prone areas may face flooding in the early part of the academic year, as October peak rainfall can create floods that last into November. Schools also may face drought in May.<sup>324</sup>

Disaster plans for flood-prone schools have been designed and tested in partnership with MoEYS through simulations and drill exercises.<sup>325</sup> DRR has also been integrated into the curriculum via the Cambodia Education Sector Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan (EPRP), the Climate Change Strategic Plan for Education, the NAP-DRR, and others. The Child-Friendly Schools Policy paved the way for DRR and CCA to be integrated into the Grades

4-6 curricula as well as into Earth Science and Geography subjects in Grade 8. MoEYS has delivered guidelines on setting up temporary learning shelters for use in flood emergencies for POEs. The 2014 EPRP outlined the activities expected before, after, and during a disaster.

MoEYS has also strengthened cooperation with development partners and mobilized resources to reduce hazards and ensure the timely provision of education with safety at all levels. Under the ASEAN Safe Schools Initiative (ASSI), Plan International has implemented school safety programs, while Save the Children developed DRR materials for the school curricula. In 2019, the UNDP supported the Disaster Management Unit of MoEYS to prepare a standard curriculum for Training of Trainer programs on school safety and disaster preparedness.<sup>326</sup> Photo 3 shows Cambodian school children taking part in a UNDP-backed safety drill.<sup>327</sup>

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the education sector was badly affected. Schools were ordered to close due to the fear of community transmission, and Grade 12 national examinations were canceled. MoEYS introduced digital education through distance and online learning, and, working with UNICEF, the Ministry introduced a Radio Education Program that allowed primary school students in rural



**Photo 3: School Children Participate in Safety Drill**

areas access to education. However, around 1.4 million children remained unable to access digital learning. Both students and teachers struggled with the e-learning approach, mainly due to low digital literacy, and students in remote areas were at an even greater disadvantage since they often did not have the tools required for online class.<sup>328</sup>

## Communications

The Ministry of Post and Telecommunications regulates telephone, radio, television, and Internet and other information and communication technology services in Cambodia.<sup>329</sup> The ministry's organizational structure is depicted in Figure 13.<sup>330</sup>

The country's primary telecommunications operator is Telecom Cambodia, which was established in 2005 as a state-owned enterprise. Its goal is to operate network and telecom services domestically and internationally through radio, satellite, copper/optical fiber cables, and submarine cables, and to promote infrastructure development for telecom and information technology. International network partners included TOT and CAT Thailand, VNPT/VTI Vietnam, and ETL Lao, and Telecom Cambodia uses the submarine cables that connect to their Points of Presence in Hong Kong and elsewhere through the Asia-America Gateway (AAG) and South-East Asia – Middle East – Western Europe 3 (SMW3) networks. Domestically, the Fiber Optic Backbone Network connects as a ring along the following national roads:

- Phnom Penh–Poipet (Cambodia–Thailand border) along National Roads 5 and 6
- Phnom Penh–Trapaing Kreal (Cambodia–Lao border) along National Roads 6A and 7
- Phnom Penh–Bavit (Cambodia–Vietnam border) along National Road 1
- Kampong Cham–Phnom Penh–Preah Sihanouk along National Roads 7, 2, and 4.<sup>331</sup>

*Humanitarian Radio Systems* – Among the international humanitarian community in Cambodia, UN agencies, funds, offices, and programs use very high frequency (VHF) and

high frequency (HF) radio systems. The VHF and HF systems are managed by the United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) and hosted at the UNOPS building in central Phnom Penh. HF must be installed in field vehicles, and all UN agencies must use the same frequency and channel. Satellite phone communication is an alternative if VHF or HF is not available. Table 5 details the existing UN

telecommunication systems in Cambodia.<sup>332</sup>

Under the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications, the Directorate of Frequency Management and Licensing is responsible for the administration of radio communication licenses, radio operator certifications, telecommunications equipment licensing and inspection, and allocation of radio frequencies. The regulating authority for

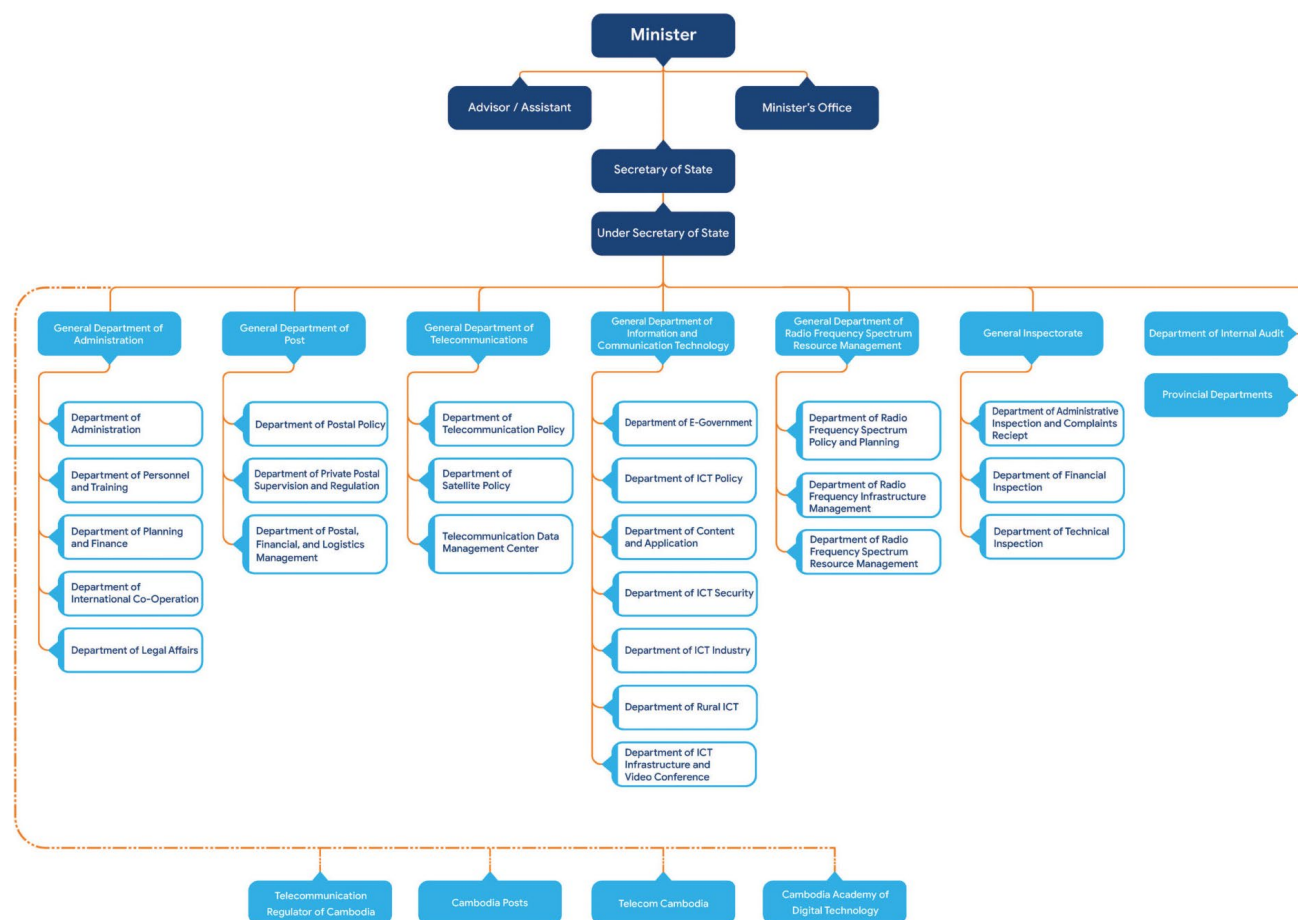


**Figure 13: Organizational Structure of the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications**

|                        | UNDP                                                                                                                                         | WFP                                                                                                                                          |
|------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| VHF Frequencies        | CH2. Tx161.975 - Rx156.975<br>CH4. Tx162.025 - Rx157.025<br>CH5. Tx158.175 - Rx158.175<br>CH6. Tx158.2 - Rx158.2<br>CH7. Tx157.05 - Rx157.05 | CH2. Tx161.975 - Rx156.975<br>CH4. Tx162.025 - Rx157.025<br>CH5. Tx158.175 - Rx158.175<br>CH6. Tx158.2 - Rx158.2<br>CH7. Tx157.05 - Rx157.05 |
| HF Frequencies         | CH5. 6.26<br>CH6. 6.475<br>CH7. 6.771<br>CH8. 7.434                                                                                          | CH5. 6.26<br>CH6. 6.475<br>CH7. 6.771<br>CH8. 7.434                                                                                          |
| Locations of Repeaters | Exchange Square Building                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                              |
| VSAT                   |                                                                                                                                              | 1371-2000                                                                                                                                    |

**Table 5: Existing UN Telecommunication Systems in Cambodia**

radio systems is Telecommunication Regulator Cambodia (TRC), which provides an off-line application system to request radio frequency licenses. TRC plays an important role in the management and coordination of the planning, allocation, and assignment of frequencies to ensure efficient delivery of services including mobile, fixed, satellite, short-range devices, and broadcasting. Eligible users are Cambodian citizens, foreign individuals, and legal entities. Details of imported equipment must be submitted in requests for radio-frequency licenses directly to TRC's administration.

## **Telephones**

In Cambodia, 100% of the population is covered by a mobile-cellular network, according to the International Telecommunication Union. Approximately 92% of the population is covered by at least a 3G or 4G mobile network. An estimated 72% of individuals own a mobile phone, with 71% of women owning a mobile phone and 72% of men owning a mobile phone. While there are 116 mobile-cellular subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, there is less than 1 fixed-telephone subscription per 100 inhabitants.<sup>333</sup> Due to the popularity of mobile phones, fixed telephone subscriptions have been in decline since 2012. The existing fixed-line network experiences on average 1-3 days of downtime per year. State-owned Telecom Cambodia is the main fixed telephone service provider.<sup>334</sup> Mobile phone service providers include Cellcard (Mobitel/CamGSM), Smart (Smart Axiata), MetFone (Viettel Cambodia), SeaTel, qb (Cadcomms), and CooTel; Cellcard, Smart, and MetFone have coverage available in all 25 provinces.<sup>335</sup>

## **Internet Access**

Only 8% of households have a computer at home, but 50% of households have Internet access at home, although this drops to 30% among rural households. There are 102 active mobile broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants and only 3 fixed broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants. The international bandwidth per Internet user is

53 kilobits per second. Approximately 60% of individuals use the Internet, but 86% of individuals aged 15-24 years are online. An estimated 52% of women and 53% of men use the Internet.

Cost is a significant factor contributing to higher mobile and lower fixed broadband use. The price of an entry-level fixed-broadband plan is 11.6% of gross national income per capital (GNI p.c.) while that of mobile broadband access is 2.3% of GNI p.c. Mobile-cellular access is 4.7% of GNI p.c., while mobile data and voice services are 3.1% of GNI p.c.<sup>336</sup>

The country's connection to the Internet is through fiber optic cables coming from Hong Kong, Vietnam, and Thailand. More than 10 private companies provide internet service through the fiber optic network. Major internet service providers in Cambodia include EZECOM, ONLINE, MEKONGNET, WinCAM, CityLink, TC, and Chuanwei.<sup>337</sup>

## **Mass Media**

Daily newspapers include Reaksmei Kampuchea (Light of Cambodia), Kaoh Santepheap, and the English-language Phnom Penh Post. Television broadcasters include National Television of Cambodia (TVK), a state broadcaster, and CTN, a private broadcaster. Radio broadcasters include the state broadcaster National Radio of Cambodia, and Municipality Radio, a commercial broadcaster jointly run by Phnom Penh Municipality. News agencies include Agence Kampuchea Presse (AKP). Many Cambodian newspapers and private broadcasters depend on support from political parties.<sup>338</sup>

Reporters Without Borders (RSF) ranks Cambodia as 147th of 180 countries in its 2023 press freedom index.<sup>339</sup> The democratic transition that started at the end of the 1980s allowed the emergence of mass media, which was subsequently constricted by a crackdown on independent news reporting before the elections in 2018. More than 30 independent radio stations were forced to shut down that year.<sup>340</sup>

The Internet is a preferred news source for many Cambodians. The majority of Cambodia's

population use social media, including Facebook.<sup>341</sup> In June 2023, then Prime Minister Hun Sen quit Facebook and threatened to block it in Cambodia after the platform's oversight board recommended that he be suspended for six months for calling for violence against his political opponents in a January 2023 video.<sup>342</sup> In August 2023, Facebook's parent company, Meta Platform Inc., rejected the board's advice to suspend Hun Sen's Facebook and Instagram accounts.<sup>343</sup>

### Post

The post office offers letter and package delivery services, post office boxes, international phone calls and fax, and collectable stamp sales. Cambodian postage stamps can be very colorful and unique, and they are prized by collectors. Courier services are available through DHL, FedEx, and UPS.<sup>344</sup>

## Utilities

The Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME) is responsible for leading and managing the mining and energy industries, including the oil, gas, and electricity sectors.<sup>345</sup> MME prepares and implements policies, legal frameworks, and regulations, including the National Energy Efficiency Policy 2022-2030, which complements the Rectangular Strategy for Growth, Employment, Equity, and Efficiency. The energy policy emphasizes energy efficiency as a key approach, particularly given the projected growth in energy demand that is accompanying Cambodia's growing economy.<sup>346</sup> Hydropower and coal are primary sources of power generation. Cambodia has a good potential for solar power generation, which has been increasing but is still marginal.<sup>347</sup>

MOWRAM is responsible for setting policies on managing water resources, directing plans, and providing technical support to organizations and communities, and its purview includes river-related work.<sup>348</sup> In the capital, Phnom Penh Water Supply Authority (PPWSA) is responsible for distributing clean water supplies. Plans at the national level aim to increase water and

sanitation service levels, particularly in rural areas, and they include the National Strategy for Rural Water and Sanitation Supply 2011-2025 and the National Action Plan for Rural Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene 2019-2023.<sup>349</sup>

### Power

In the last two decades, Cambodia made significant progress in expanding electricity access, with the World Bank calling it one of "the fastest electrifying countries in the world." Cambodia expanded energy access from 6.6% of the population in the year 2000 to 97.5% by the end of 2021.<sup>350</sup> The Electricity Law was promulgated in February 2001 to regulate the power sector. The Electricity Authority of Cambodia (EAC) was established as a legal public entity to act as the regulator and the arbitrator of the power sector's business activities. Development of electricity has followed the strategy of constructing transmission lines between major cities in southern and western regions, constructing large-scale power generating plants, and importing electric power from neighboring countries as needed. Electricity is generated or distributed by the government-run *Electricité du Cambodge* (EDC), entities including Independent Power Producers in provincial towns, licensees in smaller towns, and Rural Electricity Enterprises (REE) in rural areas.<sup>351</sup>

In 2004, Cambodia's electricity grid was dominated by fossil fuels. By 2013, it had transformed, with 82% of electricity generation delivered from renewable sources, primarily hydropower. However, Cambodia plans to import coal power from Laos to meet its demand in 2030 and to increase to 74% the electricity in the national grid generated by non-renewable sources. The government has committed to net-zero emissions by 2050, a goal that looks increasingly unlikely.<sup>352</sup> Per 2020 data, 36.8% of the population had access to clean fuels for cooking.<sup>353</sup> The EAC stated in 2022 that some 3,033 megawatts (MW) of electricity were generated locally by hydroelectric dams, coal-fired power plants, diesel-fired power plants,

solar power plants, and biomass power plants.<sup>354</sup> By the end of 2022, approximately 77% of power was generated domestically (3,464.67 MW), while 23% of electricity was imported from neighboring countries (277.30 MW from Thailand, 332.45 MW from Vietnam, and 421 MW from Laos).<sup>355</sup>

In 2021, the total energy supply was 7,573 thousand tons of oil equivalent (ktoe) – with ton of oil equivalent being a unit of energy defined as the amount of energy released by burning one ton of crude oil; that energy was primarily sourced from petroleum and gases (42.84%), biomass (28.22%), and coal (18.32%). In the same year, total energy consumption was 6,656 ktoe, mainly for industrial (37.19%), transport (33.47%), and residential (17.33%) sectors.<sup>356</sup>

As Cambodia's population and economy have grown steadily in recent decades, so has energy use, particularly since 1994. The average energy consumption per person rose almost 20-fold during the last three decades – from 206 kilowatt-hours (kWh) in 1994, to 739 kWh in 2000, 1,591 kWh in 2010, and 4,035 kWh in 2021.<sup>357</sup> During 2010–2018, consumption of electricity grew the fastest, by an average of 18.3% per year, followed by oil (8.3%). Oil accounted for most of the total final energy consumption, at 55.5%. Biomass increased slightly during the period 2010–2015 and started to decrease between 2016 and 2018. Although biomass consumption is declining, its share in total energy consumption remained high, at about 25.5% in 2018.

In line with rising consumption, Cambodia has increased its generation of electricity, particularly in the past decade. The country generated 65 kWh of electricity per capita in 2010 but 524 kWh in 2021. The steepest increase in electricity generation happened between 2013 (115 kWh) and 2018 (497 kWh).<sup>358</sup> Electricity generation facilities include hydro, coal, diesel, and solar power plants, as well as plants using wood and other biomass. Total installed capacity of power generation grew by 13.50% during 2017–2018, while hydro grew by 36.00%, followed by diesel and heavy fuel

oil (6.10%), coal (2.45%), and imported power (7.68%).<sup>359</sup> Cambodia wants to increase clean generation capacity to 70% by 2030. Clean power sources, particularly hydropower, have accounted for much of the country's annual electricity use. However, Cambodia has struggled with inconsistent output due to weather-related disruptions to hydropower generation.<sup>360</sup>

Much of the growth in the electricity supply was fueled by biomass and oil, but coal generators and hydropower plants were also added to the mix. Cambodia experiences a dry season from October to April, which can disrupt hydropower production. The 2018–2019 dry season led to Cambodia's national grid facing instability when hydropower plants could not operate at full capacity. This situation led the Cambodian government to launch an emergency program in 2019 to stabilize the supply system through the addition of more flexible generation capacity. EDC added a 200-MW power station in Phnom Penh. In August 2019, MAN Energy Solutions and China National Heavy Machinery Corp. (CHMC) were jointly awarded a contract to build the facility. In June 2019, CGGC-UN Power Co. Ltd., a subsidiary of China Gezhouba Group Co. Ltd. (CGGC), placed an order for Finland's Wärtsilä to supply 12 engines for a 200-MW power plant to be constructed near Phnom Penh. The engines are capable of running on light fuel oil (LFO) or heavy fuel oil (HFO), and of switching from LFO/HFO to gas, and vice versa, during engine operation. In 2021, the Phnom Penh power plant started operations running on HFO, with the dual-fuel engines expected to run on natural gas at a later timeframe. The plant has the potential to add a liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal. The power plant is located on the banks of the Mekong River in the Lvea Aem district in Kandal Province.<sup>361</sup>

In December 2022, the Huadian Preah Sihanouk coal-fired power plant was officially put into operation, and it was immediately the largest power generation project in the country. The plant, under China's Huadian Overseas Investment Co., Ltd., released a statement that it had adopted Chinese standards, technology, and

equipment, with an installed capacity of 2×350 MW. Located in southwest Cambodia's Preah Sihanouk province, the plant was constructed from August 2020 to November 2022.<sup>362</sup>

In November 2023, MME announced that Cambodia will build an 800-MW natural gas-fired plant, which would take the place of a planned US\$1.5 billion 700-MW coal-fired power project, which had been scheduled to be constructed in a protected reserve along the southwestern coast but was criticized by environmentalists and residents. The Ministry attributed the decision to scrap the coal project to the country's commitment to cleaner power. Cambodia had previously announced it would not build any new coal-fired power projects, except for those already under construction. The country's only remaining coal power project under development is a 265-MW unit that has been long-delayed in the northern Oddar Meanchey province. Cambodia's Royal Group, a local conglomerate that also has investments in telecoms and transport, had planned to build, own, and operate the cancelled coal plant, and will build the natural gas plant instead.

Cambodia had achieved a very high rate of electrification at 97.5% by the end of 2021, and in early 2022 approximately 350 villages remained without power, according to the EAC. The RGC had immediate plans to connect about 170 of those villages to the national electricity grid by 2027-2029. For the estimated 180 villages that would still be off-grid at the end of that time, the government called for support in its Rural Electrification Policy to supply electricity to the remaining villages and increase energy reliability for those already connected to the grid.

EDC, through its Rural Electrification Fund, supported solar home systems for electricity access in off-grid communities. Efforts are supported by UN agencies including UNDP, donors including the Government of Japan, and local NGOs such as International Cooperation Cambodia in Ratanakiri Province, and implemented with Cambodia's MME. Private sector entities such as REEs have also played an important role in expanding electrification

to remote areas. REEs have provided electricity access to 39% of households in Cambodia.<sup>363</sup> On 15 December 2023, the EAC required all owners of solar power systems to report their solar systems to their local electricity supplier by 31 January 2024. The rationale for the reporting requirement is that the EAC is expected to adopt a new solar power regulation. EDC and EAC-licensed private electricity providers are gathering data on the use of solar power systems to prepare for and implement the new regulation planned for early 2024.<sup>364</sup> As of January 2024, Cambodia has nine solar power projects capable of generating up to 444 MW and an additional four planned solar projects, according to the Stimson Center's Mekong Infrastructure Tracker.<sup>365</sup> Solar adoption is still relatively limited although the potential for solar energy is high in Cambodia, which sees the sun shining on average for eight hours each day and daily averages of 5 kWh/m<sup>2</sup>, significantly higher than neighbors Thailand and Vietnam and almost double European nations such as Germany.<sup>366</sup>

Power Development Masterplan 2022-2040 (SEP 2022) <https://media.vdb-loi.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Final-PDP-Cambodia-English-version.pdf>

## Water and Sanitation

Access to water and sanitation services has been steadily improving, though challenges remain, particularly in rural areas. From 2015 to 2022, access to basic or safely managed drinking water combined increased from 66.17% to 72.77% in rural areas. In urban areas during the same period, access to the same services increased from 89.76% to 93.64%.<sup>367</sup>

Trends for sanitation services have also shown a steady improvement in the number of people with access to sewer, septic tank, and latrine coverage in the last two decades. In 2000, approximately 854,194 people had sewer coverage, 514,333 people had access to septic tanks, and 38,806 people used latrines. By 2022, 2,589,783 people had sewer coverage and 11,610,974 people had access to septic tanks. Services increased in both rural and urban areas.

Between 2015 and 2022 in rural areas, levels of at least basic or safely managed sanitation services increased from 46.25% to 71.22%. During the same period in urban areas, levels of basic or safely managed sanitation services increased from 80.9% to 93.12%. Figure 14 depicts rural and urban water and sanitation service levels in 2015 and 2022.<sup>368</sup>

While notable improvements have been made, access rates are relatively low compared to the region, and discrepancies in rural versus urban access to water and sanitation services remains an issue. The National Strategy for Rural Water and Sanitation Supply 2011-2025 and the National Action Plan for Rural Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene 2019-2023 aim to reduce some of the urban-rural gaps, with the expected

outcome of rural populations having increased access to and use of equitable, sustainable, and safe drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene by 2030.<sup>369</sup>

PPWSA is responsible for distributing clean water supplies in the capital city.<sup>370</sup> PPWSA doubled its water production capacity between 2012 and 2017, and it aims to maintain its coverage of water demand and expand its service area to 100% of the city by 2025, with the joint support of the Agence Française de Développement, the European Investment Bank, and the European Union (EU).<sup>371</sup> Besides Phnom Penh, water treatment plants are also operating in urban areas all over the country, including Siem Reap, Battambang, Kampong Cham, Kampot, and Sihanoukville.

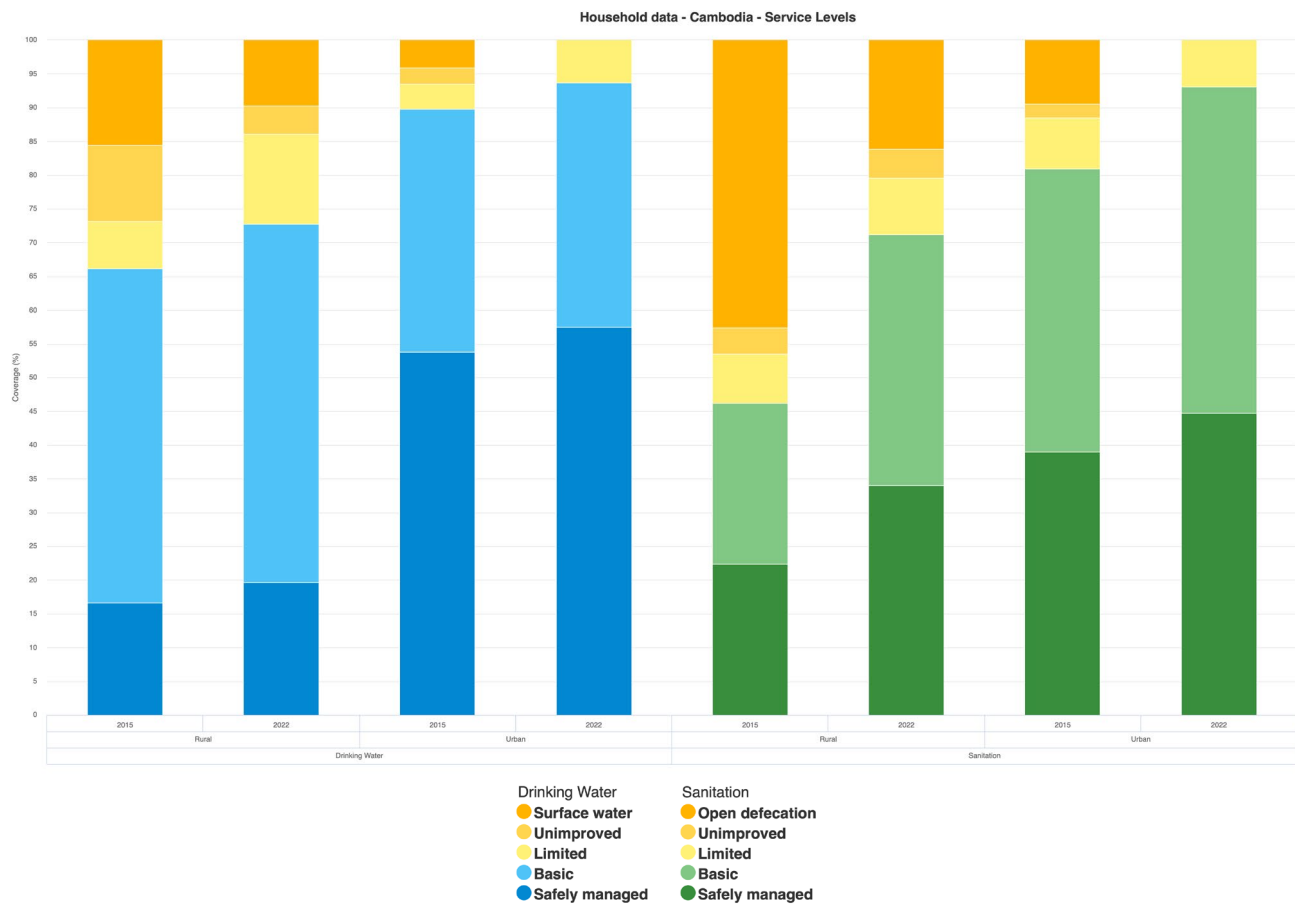


Figure 14: Rural and Urban Water and Sanitation Service Levels in 2015 and 2022

# HEALTH

Since 1998, political stability and security have led to impressive economic growth and significant poverty reduction, which allowed the RGC to implement health reforms and improve the socioeconomic infrastructure. The RGC's efforts have resulted in a significant increase in life expectancy and an overall improvement in the quality of life of the Cambodian people.

Cambodia made remarkable strides in meeting its health-related objectives under the Millennium Development Goals (MDG). Succeeding the MDG, the country is on track and making consistent advancements toward fulfilling the health-related targets under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) framework, which comprises 17 goals and various performance indicators to be achieved by 2030.<sup>372</sup> Cambodia ranked 103rd of 166 countries in the 2023 global SDG Index with a score of 64.8, just below the East and South Asia regional average score of 67.2.<sup>373</sup> Figure 15 depicts Cambodia's achievements related to health targets, where green represents success exceeding the set target; the columns from left to right are "value," "year," "rating," and "trend," where "value" represents the metric per indicator.<sup>374</sup>

Cambodia has achieved an improved under-5 mortality rate, a decrease in new HIV infections, and progress towards Universal Health Coverage, and it is working toward implementing the National Social Protection Policy Framework (NSPPF) to improve equity through financial risk protection.

Apart from the challenges posed by the epidemiological transition from a country that contends with higher

mortality and communicable diseases to one with an aging and urbanizing population, there are still significant hurdles Cambodia needs to overcome; they include:

- The cognitive and developmental impacts of malnutrition (acute and chronic) among women and children
- Maternal and childhood mortality, especially neonatal mortality
- Gaps in family planning services, maternity benefits, and social protection
- Shortfalls in childhood vaccination uptake
- Inequitable access and uneven quality of health care and health benefits across population groups
- Increased incidence of tuberculosis alongside low detection
- Non-communicable diseases (NCD) (i.e., diabetes, hypertension, cancers, and chronic respiratory infection)
- Ensuring the country's capacity to contribute to global health security and to detect, prevent, and respond to emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases

## SDG3 – Good Health and Well-Being

|                                                                                                                                            |       |      |   |   |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|------|---|---|
| Maternal mortality rate (per 100,000 live births)                                                                                          | 218.0 | 2020 | ● | → |
| Neonatal mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)                                                                                            | 12.8  | 2021 | ● | ↑ |
| Mortality rate, under-5 (per 1,000 live births)                                                                                            | 24.8  | 2021 | ● | ↑ |
| Incidence of tuberculosis (per 100,000 population)                                                                                         | 288.0 | 2021 | ● | ↗ |
| New HIV infections (per 1,000 uninfected population)                                                                                       | 0.1   | 2021 | ● | ↑ |
| Age-standardized death rate due to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, or chronic respiratory disease in adults aged 30–70 years (%) | 22.5  | 2019 | ● | → |
| Age-standardized death rate attributable to household air pollution and ambient air pollution (per 100,000 population)                     | 163.3 | 2019 | ● | ● |
| Traffic deaths (per 100,000 population)                                                                                                    | 19.6  | 2019 | ● | ↓ |
| Life expectancy at birth (years)                                                                                                           | 70.1  | 2019 | ● | → |
| Adolescent fertility rate (births per 1,000 females aged 15 to 19)                                                                         | 30.0  | 2012 | ● | ● |
| Births attended by skilled health personnel (%)                                                                                            | 89.0  | 2014 | ● | ● |
| Surviving infants who received 2 WHO-recommended vaccines (%)                                                                              | 84    | 2021 | ● | → |
| Universal health coverage (UHC) index of service coverage (worst 0–100 best)                                                               | 61    | 2019 | ● | ↗ |
| Subjective well-being (average ladder score, worst 0–10 best)                                                                              | 4.3   | 2022 | ● | → |

**Figure 15: Cambodia's Sustainable Development Goals Health Targets Status (2023)**

- Addressing the social, economic, and environmental determinants of health (i.e., tobacco and alcohol use, food safety, hygiene and sanitation, and improved water sources)
- Environmental health risks (i.e., pollution, disaster preparedness and response, road accidents and injuries, and climate change).<sup>375</sup>

## Health Care System Structure

Cambodia’s health care system comprises both public and private sectors. The Ministry of Health (MOH) is mandated by the RGC to lead and manage the entire health care system as established by law.<sup>376</sup> During the 1990s, the MOH produced and implemented the Master Plan for Health Development 1994-1996 and the Policy Guidelines for Strengthening District Health System. Both policies provided strategic frameworks to develop and reform Cambodia’s health system in the immediate post-conflict period. The fundamental aim of the reform was to enhance and expand primary health care services by adopting a district-based health system approach. As a result, the Cambodian public health system is organized into three levels: central, provincial, and operational district. Figure 16 shows the three levels of the public health system.<sup>377</sup>

The MOH is comprised of eight departments that work together to ensure the provision of quality health care services to the public. These departments include the Department of Planning and Health Information, Department of

Health Prevention, Department of Hospital Services, Department of Human Resource, Department of Essential Drug and Food, Department of Communicable Disease Control, Department of International Cooperation, and Department of Internal Audit.<sup>378</sup>

The public sector promotes health, prevents diseases, provides essential reproductive, maternal, neonatal, and pediatric care, and addresses communicable and non-communicable diseases. Private practitioners are more preferred for curative care. Cambodia’s Strategic Health Plan (2016-2020) (HSP3) counted approximately 1,000 public health care facilities and 8,000 private health care providers across the country. Over-the-counter medicines are popular in Cambodia, and many pharmaceuticals are available without a doctor’s prescription. As of 2021, there were 3,312 registered pharmacies, 590 drug import/export companies and branches, and 15 medical manufacturing institutions in Cambodia.<sup>379</sup> Additionally, HSP3 reported over 180 NGOs working in the health sector. MEDiCAM is an NGO that plays a crucial role in facilitating communication and collaboration between the NGO community and the MOH. It focuses on policy and health

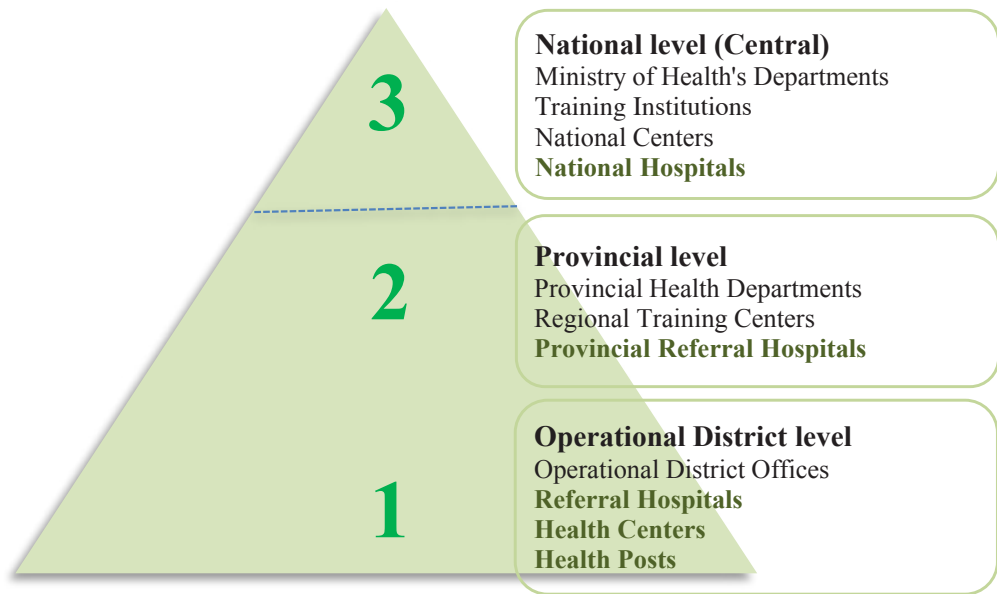


Figure 16: Three Levels of the Cambodian Public Health System

strategy development, coordination of activities, and promoting partnerships between NGOs and health institutions at all levels.<sup>380</sup>

## Health Strategies and Surveillance

Investments in health partnerships have bolstered Cambodia's health care system. The RGC partnered with the WHO to identify four strategic priorities for the WHO's Country Cooperation Strategy. This framework was developed to help achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and aligns with the health targets of the SDGs.<sup>381</sup>

In 2016, Cambodia's capacity to prevent, detect, and respond to public health threats was assessed utilizing the WHO's Joint External Evaluation (JEE) tool.<sup>382</sup> The JEE identified that Cambodia has achieved some of the 13 core capacities outlined in the International Health Regulations (IHR) (2005).<sup>383</sup> The technical areas where Cambodia has developed strong capabilities are "IHR coordination, communication and advocacy," "Immunization," "National laboratory system - testing for detection of priority diseases," and "Real-time surveillance." Areas that need improvement, according to the JEE, include "Emergency Preparedness," "Emergency Response Operations," and "Medical Countermeasures and Personnel Deployment." Separately, the 2021 Global Health Security Index noted that Cambodia does not have a plan, program, or guidelines in place for dispensing medical countermeasures (i.e., antibiotics, vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics) for national use during a public health emergency.<sup>384</sup>

To further strengthen the health security of Cambodia, the country incorporates regional cooperation strategies, including the Greater Mekong Subregion Health Cooperation Strategy (2019-2023)<sup>385</sup> and the ASEAN Post-2015 Health Development Agenda (2021-2025).<sup>386</sup>

The RGC bolstered and seeks to continue to develop health security through implementing the following plans and policies:

### *National Health Strategic Plan*

The HSP provides a framework for the implementation of health care services in Cambodia. The HSP3 ran for the period 2016-2020, and it was succeeded by HSP4 2021-2030. HSP4 aligns with Cambodia's Vision 2030 for inclusive and sustainable growth and the SDG for health to ensure healthy lives and well-being for all Cambodians at all ages.<sup>387</sup> As the details of HSP4 are not yet available in English, the information presented in this section refers to the impact of HSP3.<sup>388</sup> HSP3 provided a strategic framework to further strengthen operations in the entire health care system, and it contained the framework for monitoring and evaluation of implementation progress and results. The four Health Development Goals of the HSP3 were:

- Improve reproductive health and reduce maternal, newborn, and child mortality and malnutrition among women and children
- Reduce morbidity and mortality caused by communicable diseases
- Reduce morbidity and mortality caused by NCDs and other public health problems
- Make the health system more accountable and responsive to the population's health needs.<sup>389</sup>

### *National Social Protection Policy Framework*

The NSPPF (2016-2025),<sup>390</sup> is a long-term roadmap aimed at creating a sustainable social protection system. It serves as a policy tool to reduce poverty, inequality, and vulnerability. The framework also focuses on enhancing human resource development and promoting economic growth at the national level.<sup>391</sup>

### *National Strategic Plan on Disaster Risk Management for Health*

The National Strategic Plan on Disaster Risk Management for Health (2020-2024) outlines RGC's response to the growing challenges of natural disasters, communicable diseases, and pandemics. The Plan integrates key disaster risk management strategies and frameworks from the Asia Pacific Strategy for Emerging Diseases, WHO Western Pacific Regional Office's

Regional Framework for Action for Disaster Management for Health (2014), and Cambodia's HSP. The Coordinating Group for Emergency Response and Recovery, chaired by the Secretary of State, enables disaster managers to coordinate with the MOH. Taking an all-hazards and multidimensional approach, the Plan comprises four objectives:

- Strong Governance, Policy, and Coordination
- Effective Information and Knowledge Management
- Readiness for Health Service Delivery
- Adequate Resources (human resources, supplies, and finance).<sup>392</sup>

### ***Cambodia Pandemic Prevention Preparedness and Response***

In 2023, Cambodia was granted US\$19.5 million for the Cambodia Pandemic Prevention Preparedness and Response (CamPPR) project through the World Bank-hosted Pandemic Fund.<sup>393</sup> CamPPR is a partnership among Cambodia's Ministries of Health, Finance, Agriculture, and Environment, and three Implementing Entities, including the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (in partnership with the Asian Development Bank), World Bank, and the FAO. The project will utilize the One Health approach, where it recognizes the interlinkages between the health of humans, animals, and ecosystems, and requires collective efforts to address major gaps highlighted in recent assessments such as the State Party Self-Assessment Annual Reporting, JEE, and Performance of Veterinary Services. Furthermore, the project aims to enhance surveillance systems, improve laboratory systems, and develop human resources focusing on human, animal, and environmental health.<sup>394</sup>

## **Communicable Diseases**

Cambodia is burdened with the following communicable diseases:

### ***Coronavirus Disease 2019***

The COVID-19 pandemic was caused by the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus

2 (SARS-CoV-2). Cambodia detected its first COVID-19 case on 27 January 2020.<sup>395</sup> In response, the government enacted a whole-of-society approach that involved detecting and isolating infected individuals, requiring face coverings and physical distancing, communicating risk, engaging the community, closing schools and borders, canceling public events and gatherings, launching vaccination campaigns, and implementing lockdowns.<sup>396</sup> The country's high vaccination rates and efficient control of infection spread enabled it to reopen schools and borders and lift testing and other restrictions in the latter half of 2021. Figure 17 depicts the epidemic curve of daily new confirmed COVID-19 cases from 1 March 2020 to 21 January 2024.<sup>397</sup>

### ***Malaria***

Since the 1990s, Cambodia has made impressive progress in malaria control and elimination. Adult men aged 15-49 years face the highest malaria risk, and they accounted for 81% of all malaria cases reported in 2020.<sup>398</sup> While malaria is caused by five species of the Plasmodium parasite, a large majority of malaria cases in Cambodia are caused by Plasmodium falciparum, which is commonly resistant to antimalarial drugs. Since the 2000s, Cambodia has been the epicenter of the parasite's resistance to multiple antimalarial drugs. In 2006, the emergence of artemisinin resistance in the Greater Mekong subregion resulted in a major spike in cases and raised health security concerns. The RGC committed to eliminating P. falciparum by 2023<sup>399</sup> and to eliminating other Plasmodium species by 2025, through the launch of an innovative and targeted approach for the "last mile" of malaria elimination, alongside the WHO.<sup>400</sup> This approach consists of an all-of-society effort targeting endemic hotspots in five provinces - Kampong Speu, Kratie, Monduliri, Ratanakiri, and Stung Treng - where partners implement interventions such as mosquito net distribution, house-to-house screening, targeted drug administration, and Intermittent Preventive Treatment for travelers. The program strives to extend its services to populations that are

## Daily new confirmed COVID-19 cases

7-day rolling average. Due to limited testing, the number of confirmed cases is lower than the true number of infections.

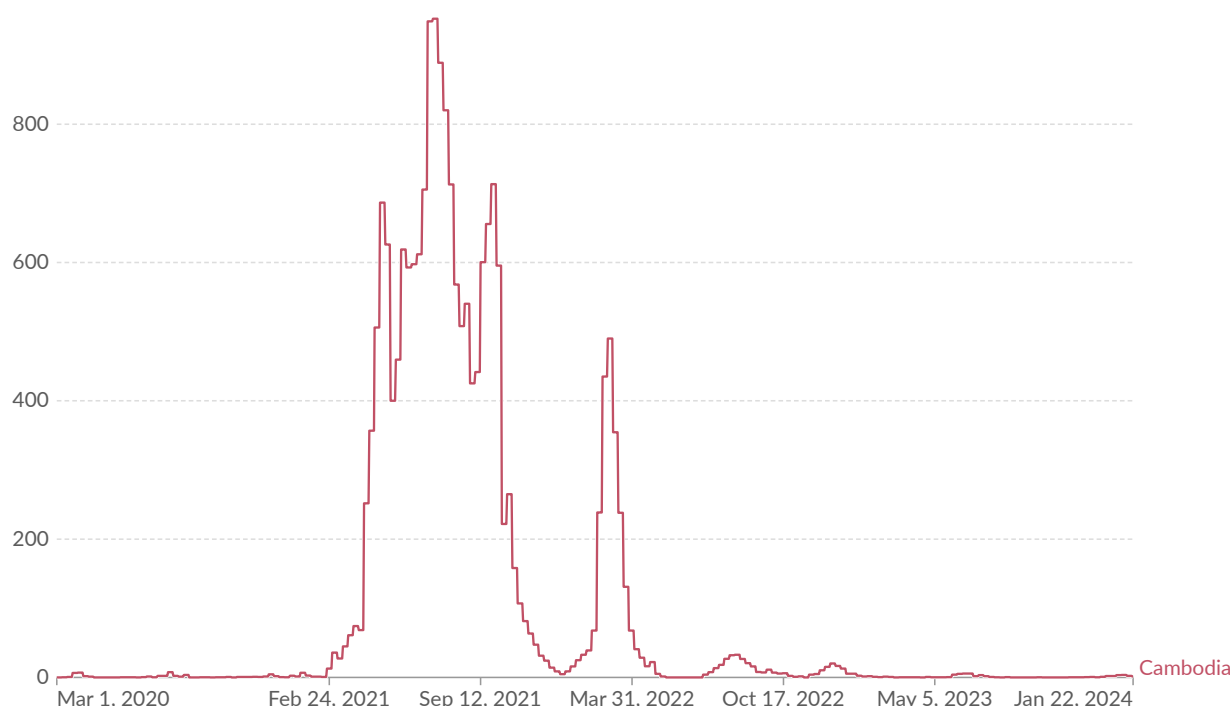


**Figure 17: Cambodia's Daily New Confirmed COVID-19 Cases from 1 March 2020 to 21 January 2024**

typically difficult to reach, such as those residing in remote, forested, or mountainous regions. These populations often face significant access barriers due to the long distances they must travel to reach the nearest provincial health centers. Additionally, Cambodia's National Center for Parasitology, Entomology and Malaria Control (CNM) implemented an intensification plan in 2018 with a goal of eliminating parasite reservoirs in high-risk populations by deploying technical support services to Cambodia's provinces, strengthening coordination, and ensuring the full implementation of malaria interventions.<sup>401</sup> In support of CNM's objectives, in 2016, USAID implemented the Cambodia Malaria Elimination Project, an effort of the U.S. President's Malaria Initiative.<sup>402</sup>

### ***Tuberculosis***

Tuberculosis (TB) is an airborne infection that usually attacks the lungs. TB cases are attributable to risk factors such as

malnourishment, alcohol use disorders, HIV, smoking, and diabetes.<sup>403</sup> In Cambodia in the past two decades, TB deaths have fallen by 43%, and new cases have decreased by 32%.<sup>404</sup> This decrease resulted in Cambodia transitioning out of the 30 high TB burden countries in the 2021 WHO Global Tuberculosis Report. While there has been an improvement in the number of TB cases reported, the country still finds a place on the WHO's "Global TB Watchlist" of three countries that have transitioned from the high TB burden list but that still are WHO priority countries. The Global Fund has allocated approximately US\$14.85 million for Cambodia's TB response for the period 2023-2025.<sup>405</sup> There remain challenges in providing effective TB services. They may include accessibility issues, lack of availability of proper health care facilities, poor quality of services, social stigma, and discrimination, and at the national level, there is a lack of disaggregated data on patient demographics.

### Dengue

Dengue is endemic in Cambodia. Dengue is a mosquito-borne, viral infection transmitted by the *Aedes* mosquito, particularly the *Aedes aegypti*. Although dengue can be contracted year-round, cases typically increase during the rainy season (May to November) as mosquito breeding sites multiply. Cambodia saw a significant increase in the number of dengue cases in the first nine months of 2023, with 21,568 cases reported, a rise of 184% compared to the same period in 2022, when 7,597 cases were recorded. Additionally, the CNM reported 38 deaths from January to September 2023, up from 14 deaths reported the year prior.<sup>406</sup> The MOH collaborates with local authorities and international organizations such as WHO and the CRC to jointly implement campaigns and to raise community awareness on dengue outbreak prevention.<sup>407</sup>

### HIV/AIDS

Cambodia has made remarkable progress in addressing the spread of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) and has become a global contributor in the fight against this deadly disease. New HIV infections have decreased by 91% since the peak in 1996, but the rate of decline has slowed down.<sup>408</sup> In 2022, the United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) reported that of 76,000 people living with HIV, 65,000 knew their status and were receiving antiretroviral therapy (ART).<sup>409</sup> Rapidly identifying and responding to changes in the distribution and risk profile of people living with HIV remains a challenge.<sup>410</sup> In particular, the country struggles with targeting HIV services to people in key populations such as sex workers, transgender people, men who have sex with men, and people who inject drugs. These populations may be hard to reach due to stigma, discrimination, or not being identified as part of the at-risk population. The Cambodian government has demonstrated a commitment to addressing HIV/AIDS with policies and programs such as the Health Sector

Strategic Plan for HIV and STI Prevention and Control in the Health Sector (2021-2025) aimed at prevention, treatment, and support. The six objectives of the Plan are:

- Reduce new HIV infections from 2,300 per year (baseline: 2010) to less than 250 in 2025 (90% reduction from baseline)
- Increase coverage of the comprehensive package of HIV and sexually transmitted infection (STI) prevention services for key and other vulnerable populations
- Improve case detection and retention across the treatment cascade from diagnosis to viral suppression in order to achieve the 95-95-95 targets – i.e., 95% of people living with HIV know their status, 95% of people who know that they are living with HIV are on ART, and 95% of people on treatment are virally suppressed
- Strengthen laboratory services to provide timely, quality, accessible, and equitable services to people living with HIV and key populations
- Strengthen HIV strategic information to effectively monitor progress across the HIV prevention and treatment cascade
- Build sustainable and cost-effective systems for health through integration and effective linkages of HIV/STI services within health facilities and in the community.<sup>411</sup>

## Non-Communicable Diseases

NCDs – e.g., cardiovascular diseases (CVD), cancer, chronic respiratory diseases, and diabetes – and their risk factors are increasingly challenging public health and development in Cambodia. NCDs account for almost half of all deaths in Cambodia, with CVDs as the leading causes of death as depicted in Figure 18.<sup>412, 413</sup> NCDs can be prevented by addressing four main challenges: tobacco use, harmful use of alcohol, unhealthy diet, and lack of physical activity. There are several interventions available that are highly cost-effective and have the potential to prevent up to 80% of NCDs. Reduction of NCDs

| <div><div></div><div>Communicable, maternal, neonatal, and nutritional diseases</div></div> |           |           |                                      |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|--------------------------------------|
| <div><div></div><div>Non-communicable diseases</div></div>                                  |           |           |                                      |
| <div><div></div><div>Injuries</div></div>                                                   |           |           |                                      |
| Cause                                                                                       | 2009 rank | 2019 rank | Change in deaths per 100k, 2009–2019 |
| Stroke                                                                                      | 2         | 1         | ↑ +13.4                              |
| Lower respiratory infect                                                                    | 1         | 2         | ↓ −17.5                              |
| Ischemic heart disease                                                                      | 3         | 3         | ↑ +14.3                              |
| Cirrhosis liver                                                                             | 5         | 4         | ↑ +3.7                               |
| Tuberculosis                                                                                | 4         | 5         | ↓ −18.3                              |
| Neonatal disorders                                                                          | 6         | 6         | ↓ −16.2                              |
| Diabetes                                                                                    | 10        | 7         | ↑ +4.7                               |
| COPD                                                                                        | 9         | 8         | ↑ +3.3                               |
| Lung cancer                                                                                 | 14        | 9         | ↑ +4.5                               |
| Road injuries                                                                               | 8         | 10        | ↓ −1.8                               |

**Figure 18: Top 10 Causes of Death and Percent Change, Cambodia (2009–2019)**

comes from primary prevention, and it is crucial to adopt a holistic approach that involves the entire society. NCDs not only affect Cambodians' health but also challenge the country's economic growth. Every 10% rise in NCDs is associated with a 0.5% decrease in annual economic growth.<sup>414</sup> The total economic burden of NCDs to the Cambodian economy is estimated at 5.97 trillion Cambodian riels (US\$1.5 billion) per year, equivalent to 6.6% of the country's annual GDP.<sup>415</sup> In its Prevention and Control of NCDs in Cambodia report, WHO identified health interventions related to tobacco, physical inactivity, and salt consumption as having the potential to provide the most significant economic benefit and return on investment. To address the growing challenge of NCDs, the RGC implemented the National Multisectoral Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases (2018–2027). The action plan aims to reduce population exposure to NCD risk factors and strengthen multisectoral governance and resources by 2027.<sup>416</sup> Figure 19 depicts the determinants of NCDs and stakeholder responsibilities.<sup>417</sup>

## Training for Health Professionals

The health workforce plays an important role in achieving Cambodia's health development goals and long-term vision. Cambodia faces a shortage of medical staff, with only 1.4 doctors and 9.5 nurses and midwives per 10,000 people, significantly lower than the average of 9 doctors and 19 nurses per 10,000 people in low- and lower-middle-income countries in the East Asia and Pacific region.<sup>418</sup> There is an especially large workforce gap in the public sector, including public hospitals and other government institutions, compared to the private sector. Additionally, the quality of health care services and competency of health care professionals are issues of concern. The RGC is committed to tackling this concern by implementing the Health Workforce Development Plan (2021–2030) and the National Strategic Plan for Pre-service Education in the Health Sector in Cambodia (2020–2025). The objective of these initiatives is to transform the training of health professionals in Cambodia from a knowledge-oriented approach to a competency-driven system that adheres to the standards laid out by ASEAN

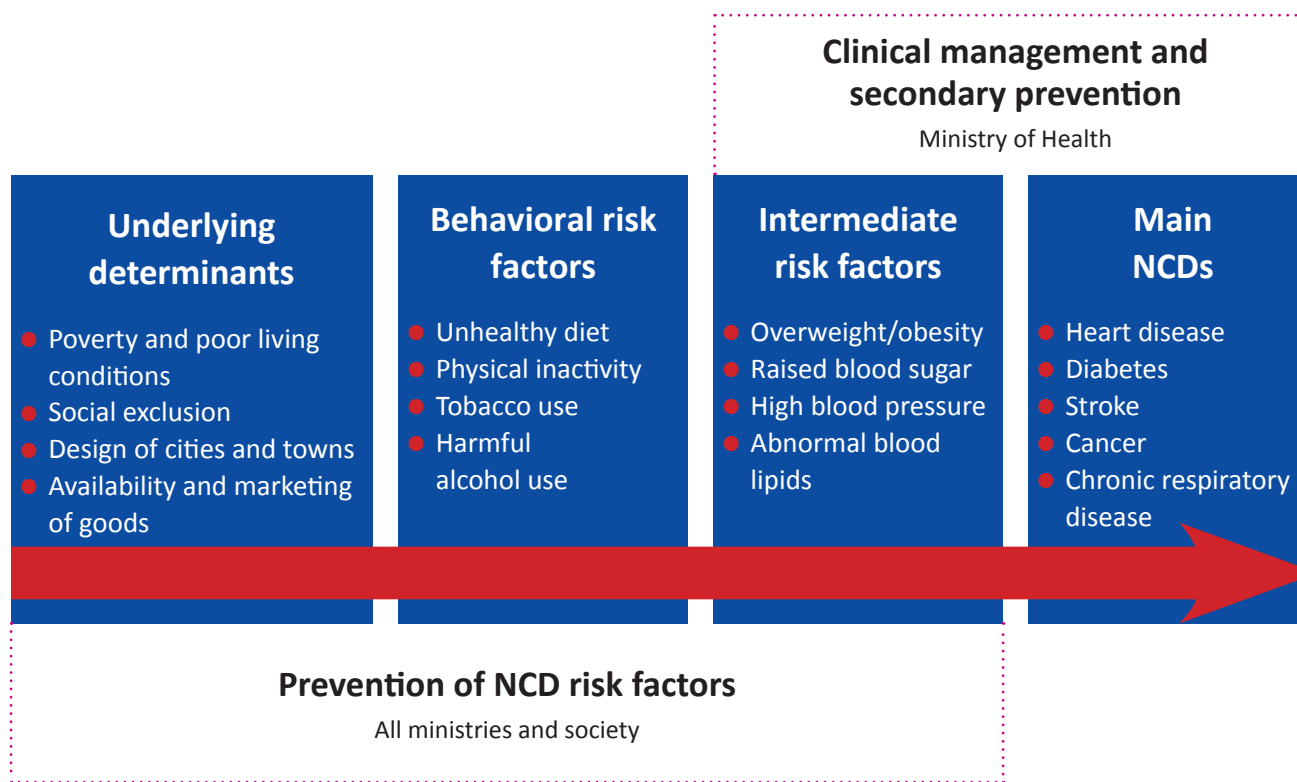


Figure 19: Determinants of NCDs and Stakeholder Responsibilities

and other global organizations. In support of Cambodia’s efforts, the World Bank approved a US\$15 million credit from the International Development Association for the Cambodia Strengthening Pre-Service Education System for Health Professionals Project.<sup>419</sup> USAID has also supported bolstering the workforce for more effective disease surveillance and control through the regional One Health Workforce-Next Generation (OHW-NG) network.<sup>420</sup> The OHW-NG network trains professionals from the Ministries of Health and Agriculture and from academic institutions to prevent, detect, and respond to human and zoonotic disease threats.

Since 2011, the Cambodia Applied Epidemiology Training (AET) Program has trained field epidemiologists to promptly control infectious diseases and other public health emergencies.<sup>421</sup> The AET Program works in partnership with WHO, the U.S. CDC, the U.S. Defense Threat Reduction Agency, and the Korea International Cooperation Agency. In Cambodia, doctor, nursing, and midwifery programs are offered by the University of Health Sciences, the Technical School of Medical Care, and the International University, in addition to international health workforce education and training.<sup>422, 423</sup>

# WOMEN, PEACE, AND SECURITY

The Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agenda covers a wide range of efforts to increase women's meaningful participation in the promotion of sustainable peace and security through conflict prevention and resolution, peace negotiation, peacebuilding, peacekeeping, humanitarian response, relief aid, and economic recovery and development. The WPS agenda gained global visibility with United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325, which was adopted in October 2000 and affirmed the important role women play in many aspects of promoting and maintaining peace and security. The WPS agenda has since expanded with the adoption of additional related UNSCRs: 1820 (2009); 1888 (2009); 1889 (2010); 1960 (2011); 2106 (2013); 2122 (2013); 2242 (2015), 2467 (2019), and 2493 (2019). These resolutions together address various issues of gender and security, including the need to stop gender-based violence and to promote women's roles in conflict resolution, recovery, and peacebuilding. The WPS agenda has also broadened to include applying a gendered perspective to humanitarian assistance, disaster management, DRR, and climate security for more equitable participation to address humanitarian needs and benefit the entirety of a society over the longer term.

While Cambodia has yet to adopt a National Action Plan (NAP) on WPS,<sup>424</sup> the country is at the forefront of efforts to implement the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action (RPA) on WPS. Cambodia chairs the ASEAN Advisory Group on WPS, which oversees implementation of the regional action plan. The ASEAN RPA on WPS, launched in December 2022, builds on the region's past and ongoing work related to WPS and underscores the need to develop guidelines to support local authorities and implementing partners at national and sub-national levels to implement, monitor, and evaluate the plan.<sup>425</sup> One year later, in December 2023, Phnom Penh

hosted the event that launched the Localisation Toolkit and Guidelines for the ASEAN RPA on WPS, which aims to help ASEAN member-states adapt the RPA to national contexts to promote women's leadership and participation in policymaking on peace and security.<sup>426</sup> At the Toolkit launch, Cambodia's Minister of Women's Affairs H.E. Ing Kantha Phavi, MD, stated, "Advancing WPS needs more than a regional commitment. We need to develop national plans of actions to ensure that the regional commitment is translated into practical actions at national and local levels. Cambodia, as the lead country for the development of the ASEAN RPA on WPS and now for the WPS localization initiative, is committed to enable the regional commitment to become a reality for all women and girls in ASEAN."<sup>427</sup> The ASEAN WPS Advisory Group was formed in October 2019 and comprises members from the ASEAN Committee on Women and the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children.<sup>428</sup> In consultation with the Advisory Group, Cambodia led the development of the Localisation Toolkit and Guidelines, with technical support from UN Women's project on Empowering Women for Sustainable Peace: Preventing Violence and Promoting Social Cohesion in ASEAN, and with financial support from the governments of Canada, South Korea, and the United Kingdom.

The ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on WPS, which includes climate change, disasters, and pandemics as emerging security threats, is available at: <https://wps.asean.org/resources/asean-rpa-wps/>

The Localisation Toolkit and Guidelines for the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on WPS is available at: <https://wps.asean.org/resources/localisation-toolkit-and-guidelines-for-the-asean-regional-plan-of-action-on-women-peace-and-security/>

The annual Global Gender Gap Report published by the World Economic Forum analyzes the Forum’s annual Global Gender Gap Index, which started in 2006 and benchmarks the current state and progress of gender parity across four key dimensions – Economic Participation and Opportunity, Educational Attainment, Health and Survival, and Political Empowerment. No country performs perfectly. The 2023 report ranks Cambodia at 92nd of 146 countries in its progress to close the gender gap, with an overall score of 0.695 on a scale of 0 to 1, with 1 representing full gender parity. The country’s overall score and ranking reflects improvement from the 2022 index. Looking at the four dimensions that comprise the overall score, Cambodia scored 0.710 (rank 58/146) in Economic Participation and Opportunity, 0.981 (rank 96/146) in Educational Attainment, 0.978 (rank 38/146) in Health and Survival, and 0.112 (rank 115/146) in Political Empowerment. Only Cambodia and Thailand, among countries in East Asia and the Pacific, gained more than 1 percentage point in Educational Attainment between the 2022 and 2023 indices, a leap largely credited to Cambodia’s improvements toward gender parity on indicators linked to the literacy rate and enrollment in primary and tertiary education.<sup>429</sup>

A separate index is the global Women Peace and Security Index, which scores and ranks countries across three dimensions of women’s experiences – Inclusion (economic, political, social), Justice (gender equality in formal laws, informal discrimination), and Security (women’s safety at home, in the community, and in society). The inaugural WPS Index was released in 2017, and it was updated in 2019, 2021, and 2023. Published by the Georgetown

Institute for Women, Peace and Security and the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO) Centre on Gender, Peace and Security with support from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the 2023 edition covers 177 countries. No country performs perfectly. In the 2023 WPS Index, Cambodia is ranked 110th of 177 countries with an overall score of 0.645 on a scale of 0 to 1, with 1 being the best. In the East Asia and Pacific region, Cambodia’s data reflected that the greatest need for improvement lies in financial inclusion, access to justice, and maternal mortality. Figure 20 depicts the breakdown of WPS Index data for Cambodia across the dimensions of inclusion, justice, and security.<sup>430</sup>

Cambodia, which contributes troops to UN peacekeeping missions, has emphasized in recent years the role of women in peacekeeping operations. In December 2022, then Deputy Prime Minister H.E. Prak Sokhonn pointed out that there were 118 women among the 801 Cambodian troops (14.7%) serving in UN peacekeeping missions, a percentage that placed Cambodia 2nd among ASEAN member-states and 12th among all troop contributing countries in terms of women peacekeepers at the time.<sup>431</sup> In April 2022, the Elsie Initiative Fund for Uniformed Women in Peace Operations announced that Cambodia would receive funding to undertake a study to identify barriers to the deployment of women in the RCAF to UN peace operations.<sup>432</sup> UN data for September 2023 reflected that there were then 142 women among the 849 Cambodian troops (16.7%) deployed to UN peacekeeping missions.<sup>433</sup> Cambodia plans to increase its deployment of military women to UN peacekeeping to 20% by 2024. Photo 4 shows Cambodian women and men peacekeepers in a UN photo by Marco Dormino.<sup>434</sup>

|                |          | INCLUSION       |            |                     |            |               |                              | JUSTICE                                 |                           |                                                           |                                              | SECURITY                      |                      |                                                               |                           |
|----------------|----------|-----------------|------------|---------------------|------------|---------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| WPS Index rank | Country  | WPS Index score | Education  | Financial inclusion | Employment | Cellphone use | Parliamentary representation | Absence of legal discrimination (score) | Access to justice (score) | Maternal mortality ratio (deaths per 100,000 live births) | Son bias (number of sons born per 100 girls) | Intimate partner violence (%) | Community safety (%) | Political violence targeting women (events per 100,000 women) | Proximity to conflict (%) |
|                |          |                 | 2016–2021* | 2021                | 2018–2022* | 2022          | 2023                         |                                         |                           |                                                           |                                              |                               |                      |                                                               |                           |
|                |          |                 | 2023       |                     |            |               |                              | 2023                                    | 2022                      | 2020                                                      | 2022                                         | 2018                          | 2020–2022*           | 2022                                                          | 2021–2022                 |
| 110            | Cambodia | .645            | 4.4        | 32.5                | 80.0       | 79.0          | 19.3                         | 81.3                                    | 1.103                     | 218.0                                                     | 105.2                                        | 9.0                           | 56.0                 | 0.012                                                         | 0.0                       |

Figure 20: 2023 WPS Index’s Scores and Data for Cambodia



### WOMEN IN PEACEKEEPING

**Photo 4: Cambodian Women and Men Peacekeepers in UN (Photo by Marco Dormino)**

In 1992, the Cambodian government ratified the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and recognized it in article 31.1 of the national constitution.<sup>435</sup> Government mechanisms for promoting gender equality and women's empowerment include the Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA) and the Cambodian National Council for Women (CNCW). The CNCW, established in 2001, is the mechanism for coordinating and advising the government on matters relating to promoting the status, role, and social welfare of women and eliminating discrimination and violence against women. The CNCW is comprised of 27 members, the majority of whom are secretaries of state from various sectors, and the Council is presided over by the MoWA President.<sup>436</sup> MoWA encourages public institutions, civil society, and the private sector to integrate gender equality into their policies and programs, and it acts as a coordinator and facilitator for gender mainstreaming across government. It is responsible for monitoring and evaluating policies and programs to achieve government goals in promoting gender equality. MoWA was involved in developing the National Plan to Prevent Violence Against Women 2019–2023, which was approved at the Plenary Meeting of the Council of Ministers on 9 October 2020.

Drafting of the plan began in 2018 and was based on lessons learned and best practices from the implementation and mid-term review of the Second National Action Plan to Prevent Violence against Women's (2014–2018); the review included policy analysis, research, consultations, and interviews with stakeholders including women in seven provinces.<sup>437</sup>

Violence against women is a challenge globally as well as in Cambodia. National data from 2014 indicated that 30.8% of Cambodian women aged 15–49 years had experienced physical, sexual, emotional, or economic intimate partner violence in their lifetime,

and 10.1% of women reported experiencing physical or sexual violence perpetrated by a non-partner. A 2015 national survey found that 32% of ever-partnered women aged 15–64 years had suffered emotional intimate partner violence in their lifetime.<sup>438</sup>

Cambodia has various NGOs dedicated to advancing the status of women.

The Cambodian League for the Promotion and Defense of Human Rights (LICADHO) was established in 1992, with its primary activities consisting of monitoring, intervention, documentation, and advocacy to promote accountability of state and non-state actors, as well as amplifying community voices both domestically and internationally. It investigates human rights violations, provides medical assistance and social services to victims, monitors prisons to ensure stable living conditions, provides legal advice and representation, produces public reports about human rights cases, and works with other NGOs to bring reform at the national level.<sup>439</sup>

Following the ratification of CEDAW by the government, NGO-CEDAW was created in 1995 as a nonprofit organization to ensure CEDAW's implementation by fostering good relations with the government and raising awareness among

Cambodian women about the convention. NGO-CEDAW advocated for MoWA's adoption of the 2005 Law on the Prevention of Domestic Violence and the Protection of Victims and the 2008 Anti-tracking law.

The Cambodian Women's Crisis Center (CWCC) was founded and registered with the Ministry of Interior in 1997. Since then, their work has branched out from social and emergency assistance to also include legal protection, community prevention, and advocacy work at both the national and international levels. It has gained recognition by government, civil society, and international agencies as a leading women's organization advocating for the human rights of women and children, gender justice, and the elimination of all forms of violence against women.<sup>440</sup>

Cambodia Women for Peace and Development (CWPD) states that its goal is to work at the community level to provide women and children regardless of race, religion, economic background, or political tendencies with information, knowledge, skills, and other interventions to reside in society with peace, equality, transparency, and development. The organization projects include HIV prevention, care, and support without stigma for entertainment workers, labor rights for women construction workers, library resource centers for female garment workers, health services for low-income garment workers, and financial capacity-building.<sup>441</sup>

Banteay Srei empowers women and their families to enhance their political, economic, and psychosocial wellbeing by implementing community development projects and advocacy initiatives and by promoting men's involvement in addressing women's issues. It is involved in mobilizing communities for sustainable development and advocating for gender justice. Banteay Srei's work is focused in Siem Reap and Battambang provinces, where the NGO is engaged with more than 3,000 families across 125 villages. Programmatic areas include women's empowerment in economic development and

CCA, as well as community action against gender-based violence.<sup>442</sup>

The Cambodian Women's Development Agency (CWDA) is a local nonprofit NGO with no religious or political affiliations; it grew out of the now dissolved Phnom Penh Municipality Women's Association after accreditation by the Supreme National Council. The Agency promotes self-reliant development among disadvantaged Cambodian communities and advancement of women's and children's rights. It seeks to empower women through collective organization, personal development, skills training, access to resources, and advocacy on their behalf. It has also undertaken research projects, with a notable example being conducting research together with the Cambodian Prostitutes' Union on human rights abuses of prostitutes in the Toul Kork area of Phnom Penh. The study was significant because it was not simply conducted by others on the behalf of women but was undertaken by the women themselves in order to address their working conditions and abuse from police and clients.<sup>443</sup>

The Cambodian Committee for Women (CAMBOW) was established in 2000 and is an alliance of 35 NGOs and networks that work to end violence against women and children and raise awareness regarding women's rights. The organization promotes the protection of women by educating, training, advocating, researching, and working with national and regional networks to address domestic violence, rape, human trafficking, and other issues.<sup>444</sup>

The NGO Forum on Cambodia is a membership organization that builds NGO cooperation and capacity to improve life for poor and vulnerable people in Cambodia. It supports NGO networks and other civil society organizations to engage in policy dialogue, debate, and advocacy. Its goal is for the rights of the poor and vulnerable to be recognized and supported by the policies and practices of Cambodia's government, development partners, and the wider community.<sup>445</sup>

# CONCLUSION

Cambodia faces various challenges from hazards and climate change but has also exhibited remarkable development and economic growth. The disasters that occur most frequently in the country stem from floods, storms, and droughts. In the past three decades, floods represented the majority of hazard events that resulted in a disaster and also caused the most disaster-related fatalities and damage.<sup>446</sup> Floods pose a significant risk to education and healthcare, with many areas of the country experiencing flooding on an annual basis due to a combination of climate conditions and geography. Low-lying land in large flood plains along the Mekong River and the Tonlé Sap basin is particularly at risk for seasonal flooding, which can have severe long-term consequences on human capital and productivity.<sup>447</sup>

Cambodia is considered a development success story with one of the world's fastest-growing economies, growing at an average 7.7% annual rate between 1998 and 2019.<sup>448</sup> Cambodia has made considerable progress in improving health outcomes, early childhood development, primary education in rural areas, and poverty reduction. The proportion of Cambodians living below the national basic needs poverty line decreased from 33.8% in 2009 to 17.8% in 2019, though COVID-19 paused this progress.<sup>449</sup> Nonetheless, low-income and rural households still lag behind in access to basic services and earning opportunities, and post-COVID economic recovery has been uneven as households face increased risk of poverty despite recovery. A significant portion of the population is at heightened risk of falling back into poverty in the face of a disaster, economic change, or other stressor with economic impacts.

These economic vulnerabilities are important for understanding disaster risk. People living in poverty, women, children, and other vulnerable persons are at higher risk for being negatively

affected by a disaster in terms of health setbacks, lost educational opportunities, and loss of livelihoods, all of which further entrench poverty among vulnerable disaster-affected people. For those living precariously above the poverty level, disasters can easily tip them back into poverty, with long-term effects for students whose lost learning worsens future labor market outcomes. Most provinces in Cambodia have at least one school at risk of significant annual flooding, with flooding estimated to disrupt the education of approximately 30,000 Cambodian students each year.<sup>450</sup>

Climate change is expected to worsen flooding and drought and subtract as much as 10% from Cambodia's GDP by 2050.<sup>451</sup> The sectors hardest hit by climate change are agriculture, infrastructure, forestry, human health, and coastal areas.<sup>452</sup> Climate change-driven extreme events that bring frequent flooding or severe drought particularly affect the entirety of the Mekong River system, which also faces challenges from hydroelectric dams constructed in the river's upper reaches.

Cambodia's disaster management institutions include the NCDM, the lead authority for disaster management. Following a disaster, sub-national committees have primary responsibility for conducting initial disaster assessments and responses and may request assistance from the national level if their capacity is overwhelmed. While there are significant links between DRR and CCA, NCDM has responsibility for the former and the Ministry of Environment handles the latter in overseeing Cambodia's climate change mitigation and adaptation plans and policies. Recognizing the link between climate change and disasters, Cambodia has set ambitious climate change mitigation and adaptation goals, including reducing deforestation and reaching net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

# APPENDICES

## DoD DMHA Engagements in the Past Five Years (FY 2018-2024)

The list below describes the DMHA engagements that the U.S. has had with Cambodia in the last five years.

### *Sister Rivers Partnership Exchange, January 2024*

The annual Sister Rivers Partnership Exchange ran from 22 to 26 January 2024 in Thailand and Vietnam. This Exchange brings together leading experts, policymakers, and stakeholders from the Mekong region and the United States to collaborate on solutions to increasing challenges related to water security and river management. Sponsored by the U.S. State Department and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), representatives from the Mekong River Commission (MRC-Mekong), Mississippi River Commission (MRC-USA), USAID, and USACE Pacific Ocean Division (POD) participate and share diverse perspectives and best practices. This iteration of the multilateral Exchange was spearheaded by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the MRC-Mekong Secretariat, Dr. Anoulak Kittikhoun, as well as the Heads of Delegation and Joint Committee members from Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam. “By fostering collaboration across diverse regions, we are actively contributing to the resilience of our water systems, and in turn, the many communities that rely on them,” stated Brigadier General Kirk E. Gibbs, USACE POD commanding general. “The Mississippi River Commission is eager to continue fortifying a relationship built on a collective effort to sustain water resources,” said Brigadier General Kimberly Peebles, the MRC-USA president and USACE Mississippi Valley Division commanding general.<sup>453</sup> The MRC-USA, which was established by the U.S. Congress in 1879, is

supported in all its technical and technological needs by USACE.

### *Sister Rivers Partnership Exchange, August 2023*

A high-level MRC-Mekong delegation visited the U.S. to participate in an exchange that ran 14-18 August 2023 as part of the annual Sister Rivers Partnership Exchange program. Sponsored by the U.S. State Department and the USACE, the MRC-Mekong delegates met with the MRC-USA to exchange best practices on water and river management. Discussion topics included the most challenging trends facing the Mekong River Basin — changing flow regime, sediment flow, salinity intrusion, plastic pollution, and flood and drought exacerbated by climate change. The MRC-Mekong delegation was welcomed by the USACE POD Commanding General, Brigadier General Kirk E. Gibbs, in California, where the delegation also visited the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Jet Propulsion Lab, Castaic Pump Storage Power Plant, University of California San Diego’s Scripps Institution of Oceanography, Prado Dam, and an international wastewater treatment plant.<sup>454</sup> Photo 5 shows delegates from MRC-Mekong and leaders from the USACE POD receiving a briefing at NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, on 15 August 2023 as part of the Sister Rivers Partnership Exchange.<sup>455</sup>



Photo 5: MRC-Mekong Delegates and USACE Leaders Briefed at NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory

### ***Sister Rivers Partnership Exchange, July 2022***

Members of the MRC-USA commenced the 2022 Mekong-Mississippi Sister Rivers Partnership Exchange with a preparatory session in Hawaii on 6 July 2022. Participants engaged with military leaders to discuss how the Exchange supports the U.S. government's Global Water Strategy. This discussion was followed by travel to Laos and Cambodia for the Exchange, which ran 10-16 July 2022 and allowed participants to share best practices in water and river management. The delegation included senior leaders from across USACE, which is a key player in MRC-USA and helped implement strategic objectives, including promoting sustainable access to safe drinking water and sanitation services, adopting key hygiene behaviors, encouraging the sound management and protection of freshwater resources, and reducing conflict by promoting cooperation on shared waters. Major General Diana M. Holland, USACE Mississippi Valley Division commanding general and the MRC-USA president, said, "We will build upon previous reciprocal meetings and discuss a wide range of water resource challenges common to both river basins, such as climate change, drought, flooding, sedimentation, water supply, navigation, and environmental sustainment. Both Commissions represent significant expertise and will benefit from the continued exchange of lessons learned and best practices." During the Exchange, on 13 July, leaders of MRC-Mekong and their counterparts from MRC-USA renewed their five-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to promote "safer, more economical, efficient, and environmentally sound water resources development and management." The MoU identified 11 specific areas of collegial exchange: CCA; integrated water resource management; drought management; flood forecasting; hydropower development and impact assessment; water demand and utilization; agriculture and food security; navigational improvement; fish passage; water quality; and wetlands. "This kind of cooperation is invaluable to us, considering the challenges we face today,"

said MRC-Mekong Secretariat CEO Dr. Anoulak Kittikhoun at the signing of the MoU. "They have much experience with river and water resource management, especially with operation of dams and adapting designs, from which the Mekong countries and public can definitely benefit. Through this exchange of lessons learned — then the technical cooperation that results from the MoU — we can also learn what shortcomings occurred in the past, which we can consider and avoid repeating here in the Mekong."<sup>456</sup> The 2022 events marked the first in-person Sister Rivers Partnership Exchange engagements since 2019. Due to COVID-19 travel restrictions, the previous year's Exchange took place virtually.<sup>457</sup>

### ***Sister Rivers Partnership Exchange – Virtual, December 2021***

MRC-Mekong and MRC-USA held a virtual meeting on 3 December 2021, with approximately 50 senior representatives from both sides participating. During the meeting, the U.S. Department of State announced that it awarded to MRC-Mekong a grant of US\$773,570 to improve data collection and sharing for data-driven cooperative water management in the Mekong River Basin and continued exchanges with MRC-USA. Provided under the framework of the Mekong-U.S. Partnership, the grant runs for three years, 2021–2024, and directly supports key activities of the Basin Development Strategy 2021–2030 and the MRC Strategic Plan 2021–2025. The program addresses crucial data gaps and improves data sharing for impact monitoring, forecasting, infrastructure operations, basin planning, and state-of-basin reporting. It also supports disaggregated data collection and mapping on gender and vulnerability, including riverine communities to improve basin planning and operations, and early warning systems. Modern technology, including remote sensing products and datasets for basin planning and operations, supports improved implementation of the Procedures for Water Use and Monitoring public sharing of information on basin conditions. The program also facilitates information sharing and communication

between countries as they relate to water-related emergencies including water quality, navigation, and dam safety. It is expected to benefit basin planners, water managers, infrastructure operators, vulnerable river communities, and the general public.<sup>458</sup>

***Southeast Asia Cooperation and Training (SEACAT), July 2020***

The 19th iteration of Southeast Asia Cooperation and Training (SEACAT) was conducted as a virtual symposium 21-23 July 2020 with 22 participating nations, including Cambodia and the U.S. The goal was to bring together regional partner nations to engage in “real world, real time” training designed to enhance maritime security by highlighting the value of information sharing and multilateral coordination. The virtual maritime domain symposium consisted of presentations, live question-and-answer sessions, panel discussions, and interactive small group breakout sessions with representatives from the 22 participating nations, as well as academics, think tanks, and NGOs. Other participating nations included Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei, Canada, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, the United Kingdom, and Vietnam. Planners from the U.S. Navy’s Logistics Group Western Pacific/ Task Force 73 and partner nations worked together to adapt SEACAT to a virtual forum amid the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic. SEACAT contributes to enhancing regional maritime capabilities in areas such as maritime interdiction, information sharing, anti-piracy, and anti-smuggling. It started in 2002 as the Asia Cooperation Against Terrorism but was renamed after 2011 to reflect the growing desire for increased coordinated training between the U.S. Navy and its partners and among regional partner navies. SEACAT promotes shared commitments to maritime partnerships, security, and stability in Southeast Asia.<sup>459</sup>

***Global Health Engagement on Blood Safety, October 2018***

The U.S. Army reported on 30 October 2018 that a team of medical professionals from Regional Health Command-Pacific’s medical treatment facilities and units, in partnership with USINDOPACOM and the U.S. Army, Pacific, supported a blood safety global health engagement in Cambodia. Lieutenant Colonel Teresa Terry, Chief, Clinical Laboratory and Blood Operations, 18th Medical Command (Deployment Support) oversaw this health engagement effort, and said, “A focus of the Blood Safety Program in Cambodia is to support vital lifesaving efforts through the improvement of blood product collection, manufacturing and storage.” The mission in Cambodia marked the grand opening of two blood donor centers and paved the way for the accreditation of the facilities. The mission also saw the completion of the last two of five USINDOPACOM-funded Blood Transfusion Centers in Cambodia. Providing a safe and secure blood supply while improving quality processes with Cambodian blood bank laboratory staff was a key phase of the project.<sup>460</sup>

**International/Foreign Relations**

Following UNTAC’s 1992-1993 administration of the country, the RGC formed in 1993 and reestablished diplomatic relations with most countries. Throughout the 1990s and 2000s, Western donor aid formed a significant part of the economy and was often linked to efforts to promote democracy, good governance, and human rights. Within the last decade, Cambodia’s relationship with China has grown stronger, and Beijing has also grown in importance as a financial donor, particularly in funding large infrastructure projects through the BRI. Top donors of Official Development Assistance (ODA) for Cambodia, based on 2020-2021 averages, were Japan (US\$371 million), Asian Development Bank (US\$308 million), EU institutions (US\$123 million), France

(US\$115 million), the U.S. (US\$112 million), and South Korea (US\$112 million).<sup>461</sup> China also contributes heavily to development finance in Cambodia, but this funding is not often counted as ODA given its more non-concessional nature.

While not reflective of all diplomatic relations, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation lists Cambodian embassies in the following countries: Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Brunei, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Cuba, Egypt, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, North Korea, Pakistan, Philippines, Russia, Serbia, Singapore, South Korea, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States, and Vietnam.<sup>462</sup>

Beyond bilateral relationships, Cambodia is an active participant in regional and international organizations, and those multilateral relationships – particularly within ASEAN – play a significant role in its international relations. Cambodia has one of the world’s fastest growing economies due to its efforts to attract foreign investment and to diversify, though development assistance and official aid still also play a significant economic role. As of 2021, foreign assistance from all sources made up 20–25% of the central government’s budget.<sup>463</sup> The Asian Development Bank is one of Cambodia’s largest sources of ODA, with average annual lending of US\$368.3 million during the 2018–2022 period.<sup>464</sup> Per 2021 World Bank data, Cambodia received US\$1.359 billion in net ODA and official aid.<sup>465</sup> Separately from ODA from foreign governments, many foreign NGOs do aid and development work in Cambodia. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation maintains a list of NGOs, which have signed an MoU; they include 97 NGOs listed as from the U.S., 41–South Korea, 29–Australia, 28–Japan, 24–France, 22–United Kingdom, 11–Germany, 11–Italy, 10–Singapore, 10–Switzerland, 7–China (of which 2 are Taiwan-based: Field Relief Agency and Tzu Chi Charity Foundation), 6–Belgium, 6–Netherlands, 5–Thailand, 4–Brazil, 4–Canada, 4–Norway, 3–Denmark, 3–Philippines, 3–Sweden, 2–Malaysia, 2–New

Zealand, 2–Slovakia, 1–Austria, 1–Czechia, 1–Finland, 1–India, and 1–Luxembourg.<sup>466</sup>

### ***Association of Southeast Asian Nations***

Cambodia joined ASEAN on 30 April 1999 as the 10th member; the other nine member-states are the founding members, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand (1967), as well as Brunei (1984), Vietnam (1995), Laos (1997), and Myanmar (1997).<sup>467</sup> Cambodia has assumed the Chair of ASEAN three times, in 2002, 2012, and 2022. Cambodia stated it chose the theme “ASEAN A.C.T.: Addressing Challenges Together” for its 2022 tenure to highlight the importance of ASEAN’s spirit as a united family with a strong sense of togetherness to address common challenges and achieve shared goals.<sup>468</sup>

### ***Mekong River Commission***

Cambodia has been an active participant in the MRC since Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam founded the Commission in 1995. MRC is an intergovernmental organization established to promote regional dialogue and cooperation in the Lower Mekong River Basin. Based on the Mekong Agreement among member states, the Commission serves as a regional platform for water diplomacy as well as a knowledge hub of water resources management for the sustainable development of the region. China and Myanmar became Dialogue Partners in 1996.<sup>469</sup> In 2021, the MRC joined the Friends of the Mekong, which includes the Asian Development Bank, Australia, Cambodia, the EU, Japan, Laos, Myanmar, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Thailand, the United States, Vietnam, and the World Bank.<sup>470</sup> Cambodia hosted the 30th Meeting of the MRC Council and the 28th Meeting of the Development Partner Consultative Group on 24 November 2023 in Siem Reap Province.<sup>471</sup>

### ***Australia***

Cambodia and Australia celebrated 70 years of bilateral relations in 2022. Historically, Australia contributed significantly to UNTAC (1992–1993). Since then, the two countries have strengthened

economic relations as trade partners, and Australia has supported Cambodia's development activities. In 2022, bilateral trade was valued at approximately AUS\$1.1 billion (US\$717 million) in goods and services. Australia's top imports were gold, clothing, recreational travel, footwear, travel goods, and bags. Cambodia's top imports were education-related travel, cereal preparations, recreational travel, coal, and beef. Australia is Cambodia's 5th largest bilateral donor of ODA as tallied by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Australia provides ODA and promotes inclusive trade and investment under the Cambodia Australia Partnership for Resilient Economic Development (CAPRED). Australia advocates for the promotion and protection of human rights in Cambodia and engages on the issue with the RGC, civil society, diaspora, and international partners. An Australian Federal Police liaison office in Phnom Penh cooperates with and assists Cambodian law enforcement agencies to deal with transnational crime. Australia and Cambodia work closely together to combat people smuggling and trafficking, irregular migration, child sex tourism, narcotics trafficking, fraud, and terrorism. Australia also contributes to demining efforts and has spent over AUS\$100 million (US\$65.2 million) on demining programs in Cambodia since 1994.<sup>472</sup>

**China**

The relationship between China and Cambodia has rapidly strengthened in recent years, with Beijing providing Phnom Penh with a significant amount of financial assistance. China has been a key political ally and Cambodia's largest investor since 2013, with investments increasing steadily between 2015 and 2019. Among the Foreign Direct Investment that Cambodia received between 1994 to 2019, China accounted for the largest single amount at 21.81%, followed by South Korea at 6.16%, the United Kingdom at 5.01%, Malaysia, Japan, and Hong Kong at 3-4% each, and Vietnam, Taiwan, Singapore, and Thailand at less than 3% each.<sup>473</sup> In 2023, Chinese companies reportedly

invested more than US\$3 billion in Cambodia.<sup>474</sup> China is a significant export destination for Cambodia's agricultural products. However, as China's economy slowed amid COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, agricultural exports to China stagnated, and inbound Chinese tourism slowed.<sup>475</sup> Military ties between the two countries have also deepened in recent years, with Beijing providing aid, equipment, and training to Cambodian forces. In June 2021, China and Cambodia began expanding Ream Naval Base in Sihanoukville Province on the Gulf of Thailand; the project was funded by Beijing. On 19 March 2023, days before a major bilateral military exercise, the Chinese warship Jinggangshan conducted a 2-hour maritime drill coordinating navigation and communications with the Cambodian Navy off the coast of Sihanoukville Province. From 23 March to 8 April 2023, China and Cambodia conducted the Golden Dragon exercise between their two militaries, with several observers from Southeast Asian nations also in attendance.<sup>476</sup> A reported 257 Chinese and 583 Cambodian troops participated, and the exercise featured the first bilateral naval drills between the two nations. Officials said the exercise would focus on security operations during major events and humanitarian relief.<sup>477</sup> Cambodia and China previously conducted the Golden Dragon Exercise in 2016, 2018, 2019, and 2020.<sup>478</sup> On 5 December 2023, two of China's PLA Navy vessels reportedly arrived at the Ream base as part of training for the Cambodian Navy, a visit that marked the first foreign warships to gain access to the new facility. Amid Western concerns, Prime Minister Hun Manet stated on 24 January 2024, during the 25th anniversary commemoration of the RCAF infantry command, that no foreign military bases would be allowed on Cambodian territory, and he referred to apparent prohibitions in the Cambodian Constitution.<sup>479</sup> In December 2023, at the Beijing-hosted Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Forum, attended by Cambodia along with Laos and Myanmar, the main discussion regarding the Mekong River focused

on multinational security operations. Chinese police also have a presence in Cambodia as they help address the issue of criminality among Chinese nationals in Phnom Penh and Sihanoukville, according to Brian Eyler, Southeast Asia program director at the Stimson Center.<sup>480</sup>

### ***Japan***

Diplomatic relations between Cambodia and Japan have been consistently amicable. Japan is a significant donor to Cambodia. The two countries significantly upgraded their bilateral relationship to a comprehensive strategic partnership at a December 2023 summit, at which they signed seven MoUs, including on digitization across productive sectors and renewable energy projects.<sup>481</sup> Japan and Cambodia plan to meet at an inter-ministerial meeting at the Council for the Development of Cambodia in early 2024 to endorse the draft plan for the Japanese aid policy for Cambodia for the 2024–2028 period.<sup>482</sup> Japan ranks as Cambodia's fifth-largest trading partner, following China, the U.S., Vietnam, and Thailand. In 2023, total bilateral trade was valued at close to US\$1.8 billion, with Cambodia's exports to Japan approaching US\$1.2 billion, a modest increase from the previous year. At a December 2023 meeting with Japan held by the Council for the Development of Cambodia, the focus was on expanding the Sihanoukville Autonomous Port into a regional hub and preparing to establish the Cambodia-Japan Special Economic Zone. In the first quarter of 2023, Japan was the Cambodia's fourth-largest financier, accounting for US\$2.774 billion, behind China, South Korea, and Singapore. Japan's investments are primarily in the financial, construction, hotel, and real estate sectors.<sup>483</sup>

### ***Thailand***

Thailand and Cambodia share a border, and their relationship has been marked by occasional border disputes but also growing economic and trade relations. The most notable border dispute in recent years was over the Preah

Vihear Temple, which the International Court of Justice ruled in 2013 belongs to Cambodia.<sup>484</sup> The Thailand-Cambodia economic relationship has strengthened in recent years. The value of trade between them grew almost 23% from US\$8 billion in 2021 to US\$9.8 billion in 2022. Thai investment in Cambodia grew to over US\$2 billion in 2022, while Cambodia's investment in Thailand increased to US\$130 million, or over 8% growth.<sup>485</sup>

### ***U.S.***

Full diplomatic relations were re-established after the freely elected RGC was formed in 1993. As democratic backsliding has accelerated since 2017 with more opposition members, journalists, and human rights activists detained and imprisoned, the U.S. has increasingly called on the Cambodian government to take meaningful steps to restore democracy and reopen political and civic spaces. In 2017, Cambodia abruptly stopped its annual bilateral military exercise with the U.S.; Angkor Sentinel had run seven consecutive years before the halt.<sup>486</sup> In 2021, the U.S. imposed an arms embargo on Cambodia over concerns about “deepening Chinese military influence” in the country.<sup>487</sup> Cambodia and the U.S. do work together in areas of shared interest, including nuclear non-proliferation, law enforcement, child protection, humanitarian demining, prisoner of war / missing in action (POW/ MIA) accounting, public health, food security, addressing climate change and natural resource management, education, countering trafficking in persons, and peacekeeping. Between 2018 and 2021, U.S. foreign assistance programs in health, education, governance, economic growth, and clearance of unexploded ordnance and landmines totaled over US\$338 million. The U.S. is Cambodia's largest single export market. Manufacturing output is concentrated in the garment, footwear, and travel goods sectors, which dominate Cambodia's exports, particularly to the U.S. and EU.<sup>488</sup> The U.S., Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam established the Lower Mekong Initiative in 2009. The U.S. Secretary of

State and Foreign Ministers of the Lower Mekong countries agreed to enhance cooperation in the areas of environment, health, education, and infrastructure development. Myanmar (Burma) joined in 2012. Through the Initiative, the U.S. assists in developing environmental programs, including predictive climate change modeling, in the Mekong region to help address future challenges.<sup>489</sup>

**Vietnam**

Vietnam and Cambodia are linked by their shared borders and trade relationships, but relations have also been complicated by negotiations over maritime and inland boundaries and refugee issues. Vietnam’s intervention in Cambodia in 1979 is remembered with a mix of resentment at the invasion and occupation alongside acknowledgment that Vietnam’s overthrow of the Khmer Rouge stopped a genocidal regime that killed more than 2 million people. Vietnam is still a close partner, although Cambodia’s growing relations with China may be seen as somewhat eclipsing the roles of Cambodia’s immediate neighbors. Cross-border trade and growing military collaboration bolster the Cambodia-Vietnam relationship. The value of trade between the two neighbors rose 20% per year in the 2015-2022 period, to US\$10 billion in 2022. While there have been border disputes,<sup>490</sup> in a December 2023 meeting the two countries agreed to further defense and security cooperation and to not use each other’s territory against the other. They completed demarcation of 84% of their land border and agreed to soon complete demarcation of the remaining 16%. Both countries are looking to boost cooperation in the “management and sustainable use of water from the Mekong River.”<sup>491</sup> Most recently, in early 2024, Vietnam and Cambodia signed an MoU on cooperation that paves the way for Cambodian participants to get long- and short-term training in Vietnam.<sup>492</sup>

**Participation in International Organizations**

Cambodia is a member of, participates in, or cooperates with the following international organizations and agreement frameworks either as a government or via a national NGO or other entity:

ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), Asian Development Bank (ADB), Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), East Asia Summit (EAS), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Group of 77 (G-77), Institute of Catastrophe Risk Management (ICRM), Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), International Criminal Police Organisation (INTERPOL), International Development Association (IDA), International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), International Finance Corporation (IFC), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), International Labour Organization (ILO), International Maritime Organization (IMO), International Monetary Fund (IMF), International Olympic Committee (IOC), International Organization for Migration (IOM), International Organization for Standardization (ISO - correspondent), International Organization of La Francophonie (OIF), International Telecommunications Union (ITU), Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA), United Nations (UN), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO),

United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), Universal Postal Union (UPU), World Customs Organization (WCO), World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU - NGOs), World Health Organization (WHO), World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), World Meteorological Organization (WMO), World Trade Organization (WTO)

UN peacekeeping missions that Cambodia is contributing personnel to, as of September 2023:<sup>493</sup>

- United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) – 4 experts, 6 staff officers, and 335 troops
- United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUSCO) - 1 staff officer
- United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) – 1 staff officer, 180 troops
- United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) – 1 staff officer
- United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) – 4 experts, 11 staff officers, and 70 troops

## Force Protection/Pre-Deployment Information

The following information is provided for pre-deployment planning and preparations. Visit [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov) prior to deployments for further up-to-date information. DoD personnel must review the Foreign Clearance Guide (FCG) for travel to Cambodia ([www.fcg.pentagon.mil](http://www.fcg.pentagon.mil)). All official travel and personal travel for active-duty personnel must be submitted through an APACS request. Contact information for the Defense Attaché Office can be found in the FCG if you have additional questions.

The following sections on passport/visa, safety and security, emergency contacts, and currency information was sourced from the U.S. Department of State,<sup>494</sup> unless cited otherwise.

### Passport/Visa

Travelers must have a valid passport with

at least six months remaining validity and one blank page per entry stamp, not including endorsement pages, and a Cambodian visa to enter Cambodia. Tourist and business visas are valid for one month from the date of entry into Cambodia. Cambodia offers on-line visa processing. Tourists, diplomats, and business travelers may also obtain a Cambodian visa at the airports in Phnom Penh and Siem Reap, and at all major border crossings.

## Safety and Security

The U.S. State Department's travel advisory for Cambodia, issued 24 July 2023, is Level 1: Exercise Normal Precautions. Specific areas of Cambodia are labeled as Level 2: Exercise Increased Caution, as follows:

- Phnom Penh
  - Street crime, particularly phone and bag snatchings, and violent crime.
- Battambang, Banteay Meanchey, Pursat, Siem Reap, Pailin, and Kampong Thom provinces
  - Land mines and unexploded ordnance are found in very remote areas throughout Cambodia, and especially in these provinces. Do not touch unknown metal objects; instead notify the Cambodia Mine Action Center at 012-800-473/023-995-437. Use a local guide when walking in forested areas or dry rice paddies. Areas around small bridges on secondary roads are particularly dangerous.

U.S. citizens and other foreigners in Cambodia are subject to Cambodian laws and procedures.

U.S. citizens residing in or traveling to Cambodia should exercise caution in clubs, discos, bars, restaurants, hotels, places of worship, schools, outdoor recreation venues, tourist areas, beach resorts, and other places frequented by foreigners. U.S. citizens should remain vigilant with regard to their personal security and avoid ongoing police enforcement actions, crowds, and demonstrations.

Cambodia has a critical crime rate, including street crime. Military weapons and explosives are

readily available to criminals despite authorities' efforts to collect and destroy such weapons. Armed robberies occur frequently, and foreign residents and visitors, including U.S. citizens, are among the victims. The Embassy has also received reports that residences and hotel rooms of U.S. citizens in Phnom Penh have been burglarized while the occupants were asleep.

The most common type of theft is "snatch and grab" robbery, and anything that can be quickly grabbed is at risk: cameras, jewelry, purses, backpacks, mobile phones, etc. Exercise caution and keep belongings out of sight if you travel via "tuk-tuk," as passengers in these open-air vehicles have been targeted by thieves. If walking along the street, make yourself less of a target by carrying bags or items in your hand or on the shoulder that is furthest from the street. If someone attempts to rob you, you should surrender your valuables immediately, since any perceived resistance may be met with physical violence, including lethal force. The U.S. Embassy has received reports of violent robberies escalating into fatalities.

Pickpockets, some of whom masquerade as beggars, are present in the markets and at the tourist sites. Sometimes they may act overly friendly, placing their hand on your shoulder or back to distract you in order to pick your pocket.

To avoid the risk of theft or confiscation of original documents, the U.S. Embassy advises its personnel and all U.S. citizens traveling to or residing in Cambodia to carry photocopies of their U.S. passport, driver's license, and other important documents and to leave the originals in a hotel safe or other secure place. The U.S. Embassy advises citizens not to give their passport as collateral for motorcycle rentals, hotels, etc. Local police rarely investigate reports of crime against tourists, and travelers should not expect to recover stolen items. It has also been reported that some police stations charge foreigners between US\$20 and US\$100 to file a police report.

Foreigners travelling to Cambodia should be aware of common scams targeting tourists, often involving card games. The Embassy

has received reports of U.S. citizens being approached by individuals in public locations, such as popular shopping malls, and being invited to their homes where they end up participating in card games. These are often scams to steal tourists' money. If you find yourself a victim of one of these scams, you should contact the U.S. Embassy.

Foreigners travelling to Cambodia should be aware of crime targeting tourists involving drugged drinks. The Embassy has received reports of U.S. citizens' drinks being drugged at bars in order to incapacitate them for theft or sexual assault. Do not accept drinks from strangers and do not leave drinks unattended.

The U.S. Embassy advises citizens to be wary of scams involving individuals claiming they are in Cambodia and need financial assistance from the United States. The Embassy has determined that many of these requests are fraudulent and the individuals making the requests use false identities. In 2022-2023, numerous confirmed media reports of large-scale scam operations led to a crackdown by Cambodian authorities. These operations lured non-Cambodians with false promises of gainful employment. Victims of this false recruitment were made to participate in the online/phone-based financial confidence scams.

There have been numerous reports of visitors receiving fake or novelty US\$50 and US\$100 bills from ATM machines and banks across Cambodia. When receiving money from ATMs or bank tellers, you should count and examine the money while still in the presence of the ATM camera or bank teller. The fake money typically has a different feel than real U.S. currency and often has markings on the lower left that indicate it is for novelty purposes. If a suspicious bill is discovered, it should be shown to the ATM camera or teller, and the bank should be notified immediately.

The U.S. Embassy advises its personnel who travel to the provinces outside of Phnom Penh to exercise caution outside the provincial towns at all times. Many rural parts of the country remain without effective policing. Avoid walking alone after dusk anywhere in Sihanoukville, especially

along the waterfront. You should be particularly vigilant during annual festivals and at tourist sites in Phnom Penh, Siem Reap, and Sihanoukville, where there have been marked increases in motorcycle “snatch and grab” thefts of bags and purses.

Practice sound personal security awareness by varying your routes and routines, maintaining a low profile, not carrying or displaying large amounts of cash, not wearing flashy or expensive jewelry, and not walking alone after dark. In addition, you should travel by automobile and not use local moto-taxis or cyclos (passenger-carrying bicycles). These vehicles are more vulnerable to armed robberies and offer no protection against injury when involved in traffic accidents.

Although gambling and casinos are legal in Cambodia, the U.S. Embassy strongly encourages all travelers to be cautious in choosing to visit casinos or related gambling centers in Cambodia. The U.S. Embassy is aware of numerous reported incidents at casinos throughout Cambodia. In the past year, these incidents include fires at casinos resulting in multiple fatalities, violent assaults, murders, and suicides under suspicious circumstances.

The tourism industry is unevenly regulated, and safety inspections for equipment and facilities do not commonly occur. Hazardous areas/activities are not always identified with appropriate signage, and staff may not be trained or certified by the host government or recognized authorities in the field. In the event of an injury, appropriate medical treatment is typically available only in/near major cities. First responders are generally unable to access areas outside of major cities or to provide urgent medical treatment. U.S. citizens are encouraged to purchase medical evacuation insurance.

There have been reports of sexual assaults in the vicinity of drinking establishments and possible drugs being used to incapacitate female travelers. Same-sex marriage is not recognized by Cambodian law. While Cambodians are relatively tolerant toward foreigners, LGBTI

Cambodians routinely face discrimination and harassment, especially outside major urban areas. Public displays of affection are generally frowned upon for couples of any sexual orientation. Persons with disabilities will face difficulties with Cambodia’s sidewalks, rest rooms, road crossings, and tourist areas. Most public places and public transportation are not accessible, except for buildings and hotels that have been built under international standards.

There are freedom of speech restrictions. Anyone who criticizes or insults the King by any means could face between one to five years in prison. This ban includes insults or criticism made online and via social media. The government of Cambodia has used libel and slander laws to restrict public discussion on topics it deems sensitive or against its interests.

Taking photographs of anything that could be perceived as being of military or security interest — including government buildings, military installations, airfields, and bridges — may result in problems with the authorities and confiscation of your camera.

## Emergency Contact Information

**Victims of Crime:** Report crimes to the local police and contact the U.S. Embassy at 023-728-000. The emergency number in-country for police is 117.<sup>495</sup> Local authorities are responsible for investigating and prosecuting crimes. In cases of sexual assault, U.S. citizen victims should contact the U.S. Embassy first before contacting local police or authorities.

### U.S. Embassy Phnom Penh

#1, St. 96 (entrance on St. 51 between St. 96 and 102), Phnom Penh

Telephone: 855-23-728-402, 051, or 234 Monday thru Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Emergency after-hours mobile telephone: 855-23-728-000

Fax: 855-23-728-700

Email: [ACSPnompenh@state.gov](mailto:ACSPnompenh@state.gov)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/us.embassy.phnom.penh/>

Web: <https://kh.usembassy.gov/>

**Domestic Violence:** U.S. citizen victims of domestic violence may contact the Embassy for assistance.

Currency Information

The conversion rate was 1 U.S. dollar (USD) to 4,035 Cambodian Riel (KHR) on 2 February 2024.<sup>496</sup>

For travelers entering Cambodia, the import of local Riel is prohibited, and foreign currency amounts over US\$10,000 must be declared upon entry. When exiting the country, the export of local Riel is prohibited, and foreign currency can only be taken out of the country up to the limit declared at customs upon arrival.

The U.S. dollar is widely used, especially for larger transactions, and most prices are quoted in dollars. Ripped, torn, or stained U.S. bills are not accepted. Authorities encourage greater use of the Cambodian Riel, but it is less favored and is mostly given to tourists as change for dollar purchases. The Riel is commonly used in smaller towns and rural areas. Credit cards are accepted at some establishments within Cambodia, and a number of banks in Phnom Penh accept credit cards for cash advances. Credit cards are often subject to a service charge. Banks and major hotels accept travelers’ checks but usually charge a service fee. Several international banks operate ATM machines that allow travelers to obtain U.S. dollar currency in Phnom Penh, Siem Reap, and other urban centers.

Travel Health Information

The U.S. CDC provides guidance that all travelers to Cambodia should be up to date on routine vaccinations. The following are additional recommendations for travel to Cambodia. The information in Tables 6 and 7 is taken directly from the CDC website under the Travelers Health Section (<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/list/>).<sup>497</sup>

Health Alerts — As of January 2024, the CDC has issued the following health alert covering Cambodia:<sup>498</sup>

- Dengue in Asia and the Pacific Islands (updated 22 January 2024).

Level 1 – Practice Usual Precautions. Dengue is an ongoing risk in many parts of Asia and the Pacific Islands. Cambodia is among the countries reporting increased numbers of cases of the disease. Travelers to Asia and the Pacific Islands can protect themselves by preventing mosquito bites. For more information: <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/cambodia>

The CDC has a 4-level health alert system for international travel:

- Level 1 - Practice Usual Precautions
- Level 2 - Practice Enhanced Precautions
- Level 3 - Reconsider Nonessential Travel
- Level 4 - Avoid All Travel

The only vaccination potentially required for entry by the Government of Cambodia is for Yellow Fever in specific cases. It only applies to travelers over 1 year of age arriving from countries with risk for Yellow Fever virus transmission; this requirement covers airport transits or layovers greater than 12 hours in countries with risk for Yellow Fever virus transmission.<sup>499</sup>

Actions you can take to stay healthy and safe on your trip include:

Eat and Drink Safely

Unclean food and water can cause travelers’ diarrhea and other diseases. Reduce your risk by sticking to safe food and water habits.

Eat

- Food that is cooked and served hot
- Hard-cooked eggs
- Fruits and vegetables you have washed in clean water or peeled yourself
- Pasteurized dairy products

Don’t Eat

- Food served at room temperature
- Food from street vendors
- Raw or soft-cooked (runny) eggs
- Raw or undercooked (rare) meat or fish

- Unwashed or unpeeled raw fruits and vegetables
- Unpasteurized dairy products
- “Bushmeat” (monkeys, bats, or other wild game)

#### Drink

- Bottled water that is sealed
- Water that has been disinfected
- Ice made with bottled or disinfected water
- Carbonated drinks
- Hot coffee or tea
- Pasteurized milk

#### Don't Drink

- Tap or well water
- Ice made with tap or well water
- Drinks made with tap or well water (such as reconstituted juice)
- Unpasteurized milk

#### Take Medicine

Talk with your doctor about taking prescription or over-the-counter drugs with you on your trip in case you get sick. Fill your malaria prescription before you leave and take enough with you for the entire length of your trip. Follow your doctor's instructions for taking the pills; some need to be started before you leave.

#### Prevent Bug Bites

Bugs (like mosquitoes, ticks, and fleas) can spread a number of diseases in Cambodia. Many of these diseases cannot be prevented with a vaccine or medicine. You can reduce your risk by taking steps to prevent bug bites.

#### To prevent bug bites:

- Cover exposed skin by wearing long-sleeved shirts, long pants, and hats.
- Use an appropriate insect repellent (see below).
- Use permethrin-treated clothing and gear (such as boots, pants, socks, and tents). Do not use permethrin directly on skin.
- Stay and sleep in air-conditioned or screened rooms.
- Use a bed net if the area where you are sleeping is exposed to the outdoors.

#### For protection against ticks and mosquitoes:

Use a repellent that contains 20% or more DEET for protection that lasts up to several hours.

#### For protection against mosquitoes only:

Products with one of the following active ingredients can also help prevent mosquito bites. Higher percentages of active ingredient provide longer protection.

- DEET
- Picaridin (also known as KBR 3023, Bayrepel, and Icaridin)
- Oil of lemon eucalyptus (OLE) or para-Menthane-3,8-diol (PMD)
- IR3535
- 2-undecanone

#### If you are bitten by bugs:

Avoid scratching bug bites and apply hydrocortisone cream or calamine lotion to reduce the itching.

Check your entire body for ticks after outdoor activity. Be sure to remove ticks properly.

#### Safety and Security

Note that conditions can change rapidly in a country at any time. To receive updated Travel Advisories and Alerts for the countries you choose, sign up at <https://step.state.gov>.

|                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Routine Vaccines      | All travelers should be up to date on all routine vaccines before every trip. Some of these vaccines include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Chickenpox (Varicella)</li><li>• Diphtheria-Tetanus-Pertussis</li><li>• Flu (influenza)</li><li>• Measles-Mumps-Rubella (MMR)</li><li>• Polio</li><li>• Shingles</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| COVID-19              | All eligible travelers should be up to date with COVID-19 vaccines.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Hepatitis A           | Recommended for unvaccinated travelers one year old or older going to Cambodia. Infants 6 to 11 months old should also be vaccinated against Hepatitis A. The dose does not count toward the routine 2-dose series. Travelers allergic to a vaccine component or who are younger than 6 months should receive a single dose of immune globulin, which provides effective protection for up to 2 months depending on dosage given. Unvaccinated travelers who are over 40 years old, immunocompromised, or have chronic medical conditions and who are planning to depart to a risk area in less than 2 weeks should get the initial dose of vaccine and at the same appointment receive immune globulin.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Hepatitis B           | Recommended for unvaccinated travelers younger than 60 years old traveling to Cambodia. Unvaccinated travelers 60 years and older may get vaccinated before traveling to Cambodia.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Japanese Encephalitis | <p>Recommended for travelers who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Are moving to live in an area with Japanese encephalitis</li><li>• Spend long periods of time, such as a month or more, in areas with Japanese encephalitis</li><li>• Frequently travel to areas with Japanese encephalitis</li></ul> <p>Consider vaccination for travelers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Spending less than a month in areas with Japanese encephalitis but who will be doing activities that increase risk of infection, such as visiting rural areas, hiking or camping, or staying in places without air conditioning, screens, or bed nets</li><li>• Going to areas with Japanese encephalitis who are uncertain of their activities or how long they will be there.</li></ul> <p>Not recommended for travelers planning short-term travel to urban areas or travel to areas with no clear Japanese encephalitis season.</p> |
| Malaria               | Malaria is present throughout Cambodia although there is no/negligible transmission in Phnom Penh, Siem Reap, and the main temple complex areas of Angkor Wat. Three types of the Plasmodium parasite are present, and chloroquine and mefloquine resistances have been documented. CDC recommends that travelers going to certain areas of Cambodia take prescription medicine to prevent malaria. Depending on the medicine you take, you will need to start taking this medicine multiple days before your trip, as well as during and after your trip. Talk to your doctor about which malaria medication you should take.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Measles               | Infants 6 to 11 months old traveling internationally should get 1 dose of measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine before travel. This dose does not count as part of the routine childhood vaccination series.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Rabies                | <p>Rabid dogs are commonly found in Cambodia. However, if you are bitten or scratched by a dog or other mammal while in Cambodia, rabies treatment is often available. Consider rabies vaccination before your trip if your activities mean you will be around dogs or wildlife. Travelers more likely to encounter rabid animals include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Campers, adventure travelers, or cave explorers (spelunkers)</li><li>• Veterinarians, animal handlers, field biologists, or laboratory workers handling animal specimens</li><li>• Visitors to rural areas</li></ul> <p>Since children are more likely to be bitten or scratched by a dog or other animals, consider rabies vaccination for children traveling to Cambodia.</p>                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Typhoid               | Recommended for most travelers, especially those staying with friends or relatives or visiting smaller cities or rural areas.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Yellow Fever          | Required for travelers ≥1 year old arriving from countries with risk for yellow fever virus transmission; this includes >12-hour airport transits or layovers in countries with risk for yellow fever virus transmission.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

Table 6: CDC Travel Health Information for Vaccine- and Prophylaxis-Preventable Diseases in Cambodia

|                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Avian Influenza | Avian influenza spreads to people who are around, touching, or working with infected poultry, including farms or live-animal markets. To avoid infection, avoid domestic and wild poultry.                                                                                                           |
| Chikungunya     | Transmitted by the bite of infected mosquitos. Avoid bug bites.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Dengue          | Transmitted by the bite of infected mosquitos. Avoid bug bites.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Hantavirus      | Contracted by breathing in air or accidentally eating food contaminated with the urine, droppings, or saliva of infected rodents, by the bite of an infected rodent, or, less commonly, by being around someone sick with hantavirus. Avoid rodents and areas where they live. Avoid sick people.    |
| Leptospirosis   | Contracted by touching urine or other body fluids from an animal infected with leptospirosis, by swimming or wading in urine-contaminated fresh water or contact with urine-contaminated mud, or by drinking water or eating food contaminated with animal urine. Avoid contaminated water and soil. |
| Schistosomiasis | Contracted during wading, swimming, bathing, or washing in contaminated freshwater streams, rivers, ponds, lakes, or untreated polls. To avoid infection, avoid contaminated water.                                                                                                                  |
| Tuberculosis    | TB is transmitted by inhaling TB bacteria that is in the air from an infected and contagious person coughing, speaking, or singing. Avoid sick people.                                                                                                                                               |
| Zika            | Transmitted by the bite of an infected mosquito or by an infected pregnant woman to her unborn baby. Avoid bug bites.                                                                                                                                                                                |

**Table 7: CDC Travel Health Information for Non-Vaccine-Preventable Diseases in Cambodia**

# Sendai Framework

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 is the global blueprint and 15-year plan to build the world's resilience to natural disasters.<sup>500</sup> The Sendai Framework is the successor instrument to the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters.<sup>501</sup> Adopted at the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Japan, in 2015, the Framework aims to achieve the substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods, and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural, and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities, and countries by 2030.<sup>502</sup>

The Framework outlines seven targets and four priorities for action to prevent new and reduce existing disaster risks.

***The Seven Global Targets include:***

- A. Substantially reduce global disaster mortality by 2030, aiming to lower average per 100,000 global mortality rates in the decade 2020-2030 compared to the period 2005-2015.
- B. Substantially reduce the number of affected people globally by 2030, aiming to lower average global figure per 100,000 in the decade 2020 -2030 compared to the period 2005-2015.
- C. Reduce direct disaster economic loss in relation to global GDP by 2030.
- D. Substantially reduce disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services, among them health and educational facilities, including through developing their resilience by 2030.
- E. Substantially increase the number of countries with national and local DRR strategies by 2020.
- F. Substantially enhance international cooperation to developing countries through adequate and sustainable support to complement their national actions for implementation of this Framework by 2030.
- G. Substantially increase the availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning

systems and disaster risk information and assessments to the people by 2030.<sup>503</sup>

***The Four Priorities of Action include:***

- 1. Understanding disaster risk
- 2. Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk
- 3. Investing in disaster reduction for resilience; and
- 4. Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to “Build Back Better” in recovery, rehabilitation, and reconstruction.

Figure 21 shows the Sendai DRR Framework.<sup>504</sup>

In October 2022, Cambodia released its Voluntary National Report for the Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, which included a review of its progress in the four priorities for action.<sup>505</sup>

**Priority 1: Understanding disaster risk**

Since 2015, the RGC, partly with the support of development partners, national and international organizations, and the private sector, has launched several successful disaster information initiatives to increase risk knowledge and understanding.

NCDM runs the CAMDI database, which includes damage and loss information. However, strengthening is required when it comes to sex-and-age-disaggregated (SADD) data. NCDM has also increased its capacity to develop flood risk maps as well as IDPoor household maps for the 25 municipalities and provinces; these maps were then integrated into the 2022 National and Subnational Flood Contingency Plan and publicly disclosed for awareness. Moreover, NCDM compiles and shares data on short- and long-term weather forecasts, weather risk bulletins, and other relevant information with UN agencies, NGOs, the private sector, and communities to improve preparedness. NCDM, in partnership with WFP, also used the Kobo data collection tool to strengthen the ability of sub-national authorities on a newly designed

## Chart of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030

| Scope and Purpose                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                             |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| The present framework will apply to the risk of small-scale and large-scale, frequent and infrequent, sudden and slow-onset disasters, caused by natural or manmade hazards as well as related environmental, technological, and biological hazards and risks. It aims to guide the multi-hazard management of disaster risk in development at all levels as well as within and across all sectors  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                             |
| Expected Outcome                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                             |
| The substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods, and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural, and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities, and countries                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                             |
| Goal                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                             |
| Prevent new and reduce existing disaster risk through the implementation of integrated and inclusive economic, structural, legal, social, health, cultural, educational, environmental, technological, political, and institutional measures that prevent and reduce hazard exposure and vulnerability to disaster, increase preparedness for response and recovery, and thus strengthen resilience |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                             |
| Targets                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                             |
| Substantially reduce global disaster mortality by 2030, aiming to lower average per 100,000 global mortality during 2020-2030 compared to 2005-2015                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Substantially reduce the number of affected people globally by 2030, aiming to lower the average global figure per 100,000 during 2020-2030 compared to 2005-2015                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Reduce direct disaster economic loss in relation to global GDP by 2030                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Substantially reduce disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services, among them health and educational facilities, including through developing their resilience by 2030                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020 | Substantially enhance international cooperation to developing countries through adequate and sustainable support to complement their national actions for implementation of this framework by 2030 | Substantially increase the availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster risk information and assessments to people by 2030 |
| Priorities for Action                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                             |
| There is a need for focused action within and across sectors by States at local, national, regional, and global levels in the following four priority areas.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                             |
| Priority 1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Priority 2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Priority 3                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Priority 4                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                             |
| Understanding disaster risk                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response, and to “Build Back Better” in recovery, rehabilitation, and reconstruction                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                             |
| Disaster risk management needs to be based on an understanding of disaster risk in all its dimensions of vulnerability, capacity, exposure of persons and assets, hazard characteristics, and the environment                                                                                                                                                                                       | Disaster risk governance at the national, regional, and global levels is vital to the management of disaster risk reduction in all sectors and ensuring the coherence of national and local frameworks of laws, regulations, and public policies that, by defining roles and responsibilities, guide, encourage, and incentivize the public and private sectors to take action and address disaster risk | Public and private investment in disaster risk prevention and reduction through structural is non-structural measures are essential to enhance the economic, social, health, and cultural resilience of persons, communities, countries, and their assets, as well as the environment.<br><br>These can be drivers of innovation, growth, and job creation. Such measures are cost-effective and instrumental to save lives, prevent and reduce losses, and ensure effective recovery and rehabilitation | Experience indicates that disaster preparedness needs to be strengthened for more effective response and to ensure capacities are in place for effective recovery. Disasters have also demonstrated that the recovery, rehabilitation, and reconstruction phase, which needs to be prepared ahead of the disaster, is an opportunity to “Build Back Better” through integrating disaster risk reduction measures. Women and persons with disabilities should publicly lead and promote gender-equitable and universally accessible approaches during the response and reconstruction phases |                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                             |

Figure 21: UN Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030

assessment approach for real-time impact, loss, and needs of disaster-affected households.

An example of strengthening the understanding of impacts of disasters and climate change and to support risk- and knowledge-informed development planning is the report “Addressing Climate Change Impacts on Economic Growth in Cambodia” (Ministry of Economy and Finance & National Council for Sustainable Development, 2018). WFP developed the interactive web-based PRISM dashboard, which “assesses the potential risk and impact of climate hazards on the most vulnerable communities” by combining “information from satellites and other remote sensing sources, field assessment information, early warning systems with data on socioeconomic vulnerability to create actionable climate information, allowing prioritize assistance to those most in need.” PRISM was piloted in Cambodia in 2016 and was officially launched by NCDM in July 2020 and rolled out nationwide in 2021. WFP also developed capacity on the required geospatial information technology for disaster risk management in 2021 with NCDM officials, selected line ministries, and further stakeholders and provided technical support and capacity building on the Kobo data collection tool to all 25 provinces. The UN Satellite Centre (UNOSAT) maintains in Cambodia and other Southeast Asian countries FloodAI, which is an end-to-end pipeline using Copernicus Sentinel-1 Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) imagery of flood-prone areas. The imagery is processed by a machine learning model, which delivers flood vector data to update operational dashboards. These data are supplemented with data about health vulnerabilities and capacities for a more holistic picture and to address complex and cascading risks from natural-biological hazards and other multi-hazard scenarios. USAID, NASA, ADPC, and other regional organizations initiated the SERVIR-Mekong project for better understanding and management of climate risks. It works with geospatial satellite data and aims to improve institutional technical capacity, decision-making, planning, and communication

in managing risks in the lower Mekong Basin.

HEKS (Swiss Church Aid) used the hazard, vulnerability, and capacity assessment methodology to produce a DRR plan at the communal levels and to boost commune capacity. ActionAid established a Women’s Champion Group and, among other things, advocated for and facilitated the inclusion of women’s problems and concerns in the commune investment plan and commune development plan, and thus increased risk understanding through the view of women. The local NGO Open Development Cambodia runs a pioneering open data website in Southeast Asia. It maintains, for example, a section on disasters and emergency response as well as a COVID-19 dashboard.

**Priority 2: Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk**

The RGC established the NCDM in 1995. In 2015, the RGC adopted a wide-ranging Law on Disaster Management, which formalized the role of NCDM. During the term of the Sendai Framework to date, the RGC strengthened risk governance and management further, e.g. through decrees, circulars, and resolutions as follows: NCDM’s functions and organization have been revised by Royal Decree No. NSORKT 1215/1141, issued on 24 December 2015; Royal Government Circular No. 02 SOR on the Establishment of Disaster Management Mechanisms in Ministries and Institutions was issued on 14 April 2020; NCDM management approved the formation of a Steering Committee for the Promotion of Cooperation between NCDM and Development Partners Implementing Disaster Risk Reduction in Cambodia on 16 February 2017; a new Sub-Decree No. 175 on the National Day for Disaster Management was issued on 29 November 2019; Resolution No. 149 established the Working Groups for Disaster Search and Rescue Operations and Disaster Management Coordination on 26 August 2019.

DRR planning in Cambodia is institutionalized through the National Action

Plans for Disaster Risk Reduction. Regarding climate change, the first wide-ranging policy document is the Cambodia Climate Change Strategic Plan (2014-2023). Moreover, line ministries contribute to disaster risk management, e.g., by having established a Disaster Management Secretariat and a Climate Change Working Group as well as through activities as follows:

- MOWRAM has identified reservoir areas and delimited reservoir and natural lake boundaries in order to safeguard 63 water resources in provincial capitals.
- MPWT developed and fully implemented guidelines to lessen the impact of disasters on road infrastructure. It also takes climate change and DRR into account while developing all different kinds of infrastructure.
- MOH developed an Emergency Health Policy, a National Strategic Plan for Disaster Management, and a Climate Change Action Plan for Public Health, and it established a Racing Committee related to the timely response to disasters and pandemics.
- The Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation, with the assistance of the WFP, has successfully developed a Social Protection Strategy for Disaster Response.
- The Department of Waterway and Marine Transport and Ports has developed laws in response to disasters such as oil spills, etc.

The World Bank is supporting the Ministry of Economy and Finance to develop a National Disaster Risk Financing Strategy (DRFS), which is in a draft stage. The DRFS sets the foundation upon which the strategic priorities, disaster risk financing solutions, and performance measures rest, and it aims to improve Cambodia's economic resilience to disasters by building government's financial capacity to better withstand sudden and unexpected shocks, in turn reducing the physical, human, social, and economic consequences.

### **Priority 3: Investing in disaster reduction for resilience**

Under the Disaster Management Law of 2015, the expenditure for the functioning of NCDM shall be allocated by the national budget in the budget plan of the Office of the Council of Ministers. NCDM mobilized resources to invest in the following DRR and resilience projects and activities from 2015 to 2022:

- Together with WFP and other development partners, mobile applications and information technology systems were developed to collect and manage disaster data through the EWS 1294 as well as PRISM.
- Together with development partners and ministries, nine safe evacuation centers were constructed to address the needs of communities and households affected by flooding.
- Together with development partners and ministries, post-flood rehabilitation activities were implemented on small-scale infrastructure (roads and irrigation systems) in four provinces. These activities integrated flood and climate change resilience.
- A budget was set aside by the RGC to implement Sub-Decree No. 124 on the Establishment of the Cambodian Food Reserve System.
- Together with development partners, NCDM has strengthened institutional and official capacity to build and produce IDPoor household and flood-impacted maps.
- Sixteen search and rescue operation teams, totaling 1,920 personnel, were established and their capacity strengthened in disaster risk management concepts, incident command systems, and simulation exercises.
- Together with development partners, national and international organizations' resources were mobilized for the following DRR and disaster preparation activities:
  - Adoption of a 5-year Strategic MoU with WFP
  - MoU between NCDM and China's Ministry of Emergency Management on Cooperation in Disaster Risk Reduction

- and Emergency Response (2021-2025)
- Adoption of MoU with the National Committee for Sub-National Democratic Development (NCDD)
- Adoption of MoU with DanChurchAid Cambodia
- Adoption of MoU with ChildFund Cambodia
- Adoption of MoU with Caritas Cambodia
- Adoption of MoU with ActionAid Cambodia
- Adoption of MoU with PIN
- Adoption of MoU with UNDP
- Drafted MoU with Oxfam to implement disaster risk reduction project in two provinces
- An annual DRR Forum is organized to promote a nationwide culture of risk reduction and safety as well as to provide a platform for line ministries, sub-national level development partners, national and international organizations, and the private sector to exchange views and share knowledge, experience, and best practices.
- The evacuation and emergency plans in flood-affected areas were tested through simulation exercises that NCDM and PCDMs carried out together with development partners.

MOWRAM invested in the following DRR and resilience projects and activities from 2015 to 2022:

- Automated water level detecting systems were established and repaired in 24 municipalities and provinces to monitor and track the level of water in the rivers and streams.
- Four saltwater dam projects were built in Koh Kong province with a total budget of approximately US\$3 million.
- Forty dams in Preah Sihanouk and Koh Kong provinces were rehabilitated and maintained at a total cost of approximately US\$2.2 million.
- Thirty-eight flood-damaged irrigation systems were restored and maintained throughout 25 provinces with a total national

- expenditure of around US\$9.6 million.
- Old structures (remnants of the Pol Pot era) at the Stung Prek Tnaot delta dam were removed and cleaned.
- The Krobao main canal in Kampong Samnangh district, Ta Khmau province, was rehabilitated, two new pumping stations to release rainwater and used water from Takhmao city were repaired, and 12 pumping stations and 95 mobile pumps across the country were renovated at a cost of US\$280,000.
- Twenty-seven sets of meteorological equipment in the provinces were installed and repaired with a total budget of approximately US\$140,000.
- Thirty-five irrigation systems and reservoirs (Vaiko river, 3 million m<sup>2</sup> [32.3 million square feet] of water) were built or renovated in the province of Svay Rieng.
- Air pollution monitoring equipment was installed with the purpose of keeping track of air quality and providing public information in the event of an emergency.

Also, development partners and national and international organizations invested in DRR and resilience projects and activities in Cambodia from 2015 to 2022. Organizations that provided specific numbers are:

- DanChurchAid: Estimated US\$4,890,500.
- ChildFund Cambodia: Estimated US\$2,056,525.
- ActionAid Cambodia: Estimated US\$1,240,000.
- PIN: Estimated US\$470,000.
- Preparedness Partnership of Cambodia (PPC): Estimated US\$59,500.

**Priority 4: Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to “Build Back Better” in recovery, rehabilitation, and reconstruction**

The RGC conducted significant activities towards disaster preparedness, response, and ‘Build Back Better’ since 2015; this work was complemented by projects by the UN and NGOs. These projects cover the following topics:

Advocacy — NCDM translated and published the Sendai Framework Document in national languages for dissemination to stakeholders to boost public awareness of the importance of DRR. MOWRAM raised awareness in villages and communities about the importance of clean water and sanitation in the context of climate change. ChildFund prepared banners, educational materials, and billboards to promote DRR and conducted outreach to schools and communities on DRR.

Training, capacity building, and simulations — NCDM trained front-line officials in 65 disaster-prone communes on basic concepts of DRR, risk analysis tools for hazards, and the emergency response planning process at the commune level. Disaster response simulation exercises were conducted in the provinces near Tonlé Sap, the Mekong River, and plateau areas to test the Contingency Plan for Flood and other standard operating procedures (SOP) and to increase awareness among community stakeholders about how to manage and lessen the severity of disaster impacts. NCDM successfully developed and implemented SOPs for the management, maintenance, and utilization of flood-safe evacuation centers in Kampong Thom, Kampong Chhnang, and Pursat provinces. With the participation of the RCAF, the National Police, and the Secretariat of State for Civil Aviation, NCDM has established and strengthened the capacity for 16 search and rescue operation teams, totaling 1,920 personnel, in disaster risk management concepts and incident command systems. NCDM also collaborated with China's response team to conduct an ASEAN Disaster Response Exercise with several other nations participating. Moreover, NCDM, in partnership with the PPC, provided capacity training to the business sector on the fundamentals of DRR to enhance awareness of disaster risk management. The MoEYS provided at schools and among youth groups DRR education through simulation drill exercises and training programs. MOWRAM educated relevant authorities, water use communities, and households on

the Law of Water Management to promote an understanding of drought risk. The MOH provided DRR training for health officials and organized community question-and-answer sessions on DRR and climate change. World Vision conducted drill and simulation exercises in schools to build the capacity of School Disaster Management Committees as well as students. DanChurchAid also conducted simulation exercises, and ChildFund introduced CCA techniques and animal husbandry techniques to farmers.

Contingency and response plans — Since 2020, NCDM has annually updated national and provincial contingency plans and encouraged sub-national entities to maintain emergency plans as a top priority. NCDM has also facilitated the development of emergency response plans in 65 communes in disaster-prone provinces to increase commune-level capacity to handle small-scale incidents. WFP has developed DRR plans at the commune level and incorporated them into commune investment plans in four provinces surrounding Tonlé Sap as part of the Cambodia flood recovery project. World Vision, in collaboration with the DCDMs and school district management committees, has designed school emergency preparedness and response plans. ChildFund also assisted community schools in DRR and climate change planning, and DanChurchAid developed national and sub-national contingency plans.

Infrastructure — The RGC has collaborated with development partners to inform the general population about the need to build wind-resistant homes and plant trees to reduce wind. Alongside construction committees, the Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning, and Construction inspects buildings regarding compliance with guidelines and technical requirements. Also, disaster plans for flood-prone schools have been designed and tested in partnership with the MoEYS through simulations and drill exercises. In order to minimize flooding, the Apsara Authority has put up a flood

relief system in the northern portion of Siem Reap city, particularly in the heritage region. ChildFund also supported the establishment of safe locations and provided child protection education for secure housing.

Preparedness — The Cambodian Food Reserve System has been reorganized and includes rice, noodles, canned fish, soy sauce, fish sauce, fresh water, salt, and high-quality seeds for rice, vegetables, and other crops. WFP, in partnership with NCDM and the NCDD Secretariat, has built six safe evacuation centers in three provinces.

Early warning — Several Government institutions share relevant early warning information. The MOH notifies provincial authorities and the public about health preparedness before and during disasters via radio and social media. The Department of Extension for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries uses Facebook, Telegram, its website, YouTube, and the radio to share information about the weather, planting methods, and animal care. Most critical are hydrological and weather data related to potential floods or drought. NCDM, MOWRAM, the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications, and development partners made progress in previous years to monitor, gather, and distribute information to the public and to district, municipality, and commune levels through social media. UNDP supported the RGC from 2015 to 2020 in strengthening climate information and early warning systems to support climate-resilient development. Based on data from 24 newly installed automatic weather stations and 29 newly installed automatic hydro stations, a seasonal forecast system as well as Drought Information Hubs have been established, and a Forecast Application for Risk Management Field School curriculum has been developed. Moreover, SOPs for multi-hazard EWS have been produced, and various stakeholders received pertinent training. NCDM, in partnership with the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications, established the “1294 Early Warning System.” The system has over 130,000

registered users and warns the users in at-risk areas in advance of natural hazards through voice recording sent to their mobile phones. PIN strengthened the system through the deployment of 27 water level detecting devices throughout all 25 provinces. PIN also created capacities to collect, consolidate, evaluate, and disseminate meteorological, flood, and drought information to the public in a timely way and to install and repair the water level sensing systems. As an effort towards inclusion, a Committee of the Elderly Association has been created with HelpAge International as a focal point to provide community members with information about risks and dangers.

Climate change adaptation — In terms of Cambodia’s NDC under the Paris Agreement, there are 138 actions for the categories of mitigation, adaptation, and enabling, for which the financial progress is US\$212 million and of which 95.7% is unfunded.

In addition to progress on the four priorities for action, Cambodia also reported its progress on two of the seven target goals outlined in the Sendai Framework:

- A. Target A (Reduce disaster mortality)  
Mortality decreased significantly, by 37.08%. For the baseline period from 2005 to 2014, the number of deaths and missing persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population was 1.68, while for the period from 2013 to 2022 it was 1.05.
- B. Target B (Reduce number of disaster-affected people)  
The number of affected people per 100,000 population dropped from 182.7 between 2005 to 2014 to 167.4 between 2013 to 2022, a decrease of 8.37%.

Data is not available for the other five targets.

Cambodia has partially aligned other frameworks and plans with the Sendai Framework, including but not limited to:

- National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction 2019-2023 — The NCDM formulated a goal closely resembling the outcomes and goals of the Sendai Framework: “The substantial reduction of disaster risks and losses in terms of lives, livelihoods and health of communities and the protection of economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of citizens, communities and businesses.” Linked to this goal, NCDM also developed nine long-term (through 2030) DRR targets, which also resemble the seven Sendai Framework targets.<sup>506</sup>
- UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework Cambodia 2024–2028 — The framework focuses on priority areas of Human Development, Economic Transformation, Environment, and Social Transformation. Under Environment, the fourth output focused on for delivery is, “The adaptive capacity of systems and communities to climate change and disasters is strengthened,” and it directly references the Sendai Framework.<sup>507</sup>

## Country Profile

The information in the Country Profile section is sourced directly from the CIA World Factbook for Cambodia. Additional numbers on country comparison to the world can be found by going directly to the CIA website (<https://www.cia.gov>). The profile discusses topics including geography, people and society, government, economy, energy, communications, military and security, transportation, terrorism, and transnational issues.<sup>508</sup>

### Background

Most Cambodians consider themselves to be Khmers, descendants of the Angkor Empire that extended over much of Southeast Asia and reached its zenith between the 10th and 13th centuries (CE). Attacks by the Thai and Cham (from present-day Vietnam) weakened the empire, ushering in a long period of decline. The king placed the country under French protection in 1863, and it became part of French Indochina in 1887. Following the Japanese occupation in World War II, Cambodia gained full independence from France in 1953. In April 1975, after a seven-year struggle, communist Khmer Rouge forces captured Phnom Penh and evacuated all cities and towns. At least 1.5 million Cambodians died from execution, forced hardships, or starvation during the Khmer Rouge regime under POL POT. A December 1978 Vietnamese invasion drove the Khmer Rouge into the countryside, began a 10-year Vietnamese occupation, and touched off 20 years of civil war.

The 1991 Paris Peace Accords mandated democratic elections and a cease-fire, which was not fully respected by the Khmer Rouge. UN-sponsored elections in 1993 helped restore some semblance of normalcy under a coalition government. Factional fighting in 1997 ended the first coalition government, but a second round of national elections in 1998 led to the formation of another coalition government and renewed political stability. The remaining elements of the Khmer Rouge surrendered in early 1999. Some of the surviving Khmer Rouge leaders were tried for crimes against humanity by a hybrid UN-

Cambodian tribunal supported by international assistance. In 2018, the tribunal heard its final cases, but it remains in operation to hear appeals. Elections in July 2003 were relatively peaceful, but it took one year of negotiations between contending political parties before a coalition government was formed. In October 2004, King Norodom SIHANOUK abdicated the throne and his son, Prince Norodom SIHAMONI, was selected to succeed him. Local (Commune Council) elections were held in Cambodia in 2012, with little of the violence that preceded prior elections. National elections in July 2013 were disputed, with the opposition - the Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP) - boycotting the National Assembly. The political impasse was ended nearly a year later, with the CNRP agreeing to enter parliament in exchange for commitments by the ruling Cambodian People's Party (CPP) to undertake electoral and legislative reforms. The CNRP made further gains in local commune elections in June 2017, accelerating sitting Prime Minister HUN SEN's efforts to marginalize the CNRP before national elections in 2018. HUN SEN arrested CNRP President KEM SOKHA in September 2017. The Supreme Court dissolved the CNRP in November 2017 and banned its leaders from participating in politics for at least five years. The CNRP's seats in the National Assembly were redistributed to smaller, less influential opposition parties, while all of the CNRP's 5,007 seats in the commune councils throughout the country were reallocated to the CPP. With the CNRP banned, the CPP swept the 2018 national elections, winning all 125 National Assembly seats and effectively turning the country into a one-party state.

Cambodia has strong and growing economic and political ties with its large neighbor to the north, China. More than 53% of foreign investment in the country in 2021 came from China, and Beijing has provided over US\$15 billion in financial assistance since the 1990s. China accounted for 443 percent of Cambodia's foreign debt in 2021. The CPP also partly sees Chinese support as a counterbalance to Thailand and Vietnam and to international criticism of the

CPP's human rights and antidemocratic record.

## Geography

### Location

Southeastern Asia, bordering the Gulf of Thailand, between Thailand, Vietnam, and Laos

### Geographic coordinates

13 00 N, 105 00 E

### Area

total: 181,035 sq km

land: 176,515 sq km

water: 4,520 sq km

comparison ranking: total 90

### Area - comparative

one and a half times the size of Pennsylvania; slightly smaller than Oklahoma

### Land boundaries

total: 2,530 km

border countries (3): Laos 555 km; Thailand 817 km; Vietnam 1158 km

### Coastline

443 km

### Maritime claims

territorial sea: 12 nm

contiguous zone: 24 nm

exclusive economic zone: 200 nm

continental shelf: 200 nm

### Climate

tropical; rainy, monsoon season (May to November); dry season (December to April); little seasonal temperature variation

### Terrain

mostly low, flat plains; mountains in southwest and north

### Elevation

highest point: Phnum Aoral 1,810 m

lowest point: Gulf of Thailand 0 m

mean elevation: 126 m

### Natural resources

oil and gas, timber, gemstones, iron ore, manganese, phosphates, hydropower potential, arable land

### Land use

agricultural land: 32.1% (2018 est.)

arable land: 22.7% (2018 est.)

permanent crops: 0.9% (2018 est.)

permanent pasture: 8.5% (2018 est.)

forest: 56.5% (2018 est.)

other: 11.4% (2018 est.)

### Irrigated land

3,540 sq km (2012)

### Major lakes (area sq km)

freshwater lake(s): Tonle Sap - 2,700-16,000 sq km

### Major rivers (by length in km)

Mekong (shared with China [s], Burma, Thailand, Laos, and Vietnam [m]) - 4,350 km  
note – [s] after country name indicates river source; [m] after country name indicates river mouth

### Major watersheds (area sq km)

Pacific Ocean drainage: Mekong (805,604 sq km)

### Population distribution

population concentrated in the southeast, particularly in and around the capital of Phnom Penh; further distribution is linked closely to the Tonle Sap and Mekong Rivers

### Natural hazards

monsoonal rains (June to November); flooding; occasional droughts

### Geography - note

a land of paddies and forests dominated by the Mekong River and Tonle Sap (Southeast Asia's largest freshwater lake)

People and Society

Population

16,891,245 (2023 est.)  
comparison ranking: 72

Nationality

noun: Cambodian(s)  
adjective: Cambodian

Ethnic groups

Khmer 95.4%, Cham 2.4%, Chinese 1.5%, other 0.7% (2019-20 est.)

Languages

Khmer (official) 95.8%, minority languages 2.9%, Chinese 0.6%, Vietnamese 0.5%, other 0.2% (2019 est.)  
major-language sample(s):  
សង្គ្រោះហេតុការណ៍នៃវិវត្តន៍សង្គម  
ទីតាំងព័ត៌មានមូលដ្ឋានគ្រឹះយាងសំខាន់។  
(Khmer)

Religions

Buddhist (official) 97.1%, Muslim 2%, Christian 0.3%, other 0.5% (2019 est.)

Demographic profile

Cambodia is a predominantly rural country with among the most ethnically and religiously homogenous populations in Southeast Asia: more than 95% of its inhabitants are Khmer and more than 95% are Buddhist. The population's size and age structure shrank and then rebounded during the 20th century as a result of conflict and mass death. During the Khmer Rouge regime between 1975 and 1979 as many as 1.5-2 million people are estimated to have been killed or died as a result of starvation, disease, or overwork – a loss of about 25% of the population. At the same time, emigration was high, and the fertility rate sharply declined. In the 1980s, after the overthrow of the Khmer Rouge, fertility nearly doubled and reached pre-Khmer Rouge levels of close to 7 children per woman, reflecting in part higher infant survival rates. The baby boom was followed by a sustained fertility decline starting

in the early 1990s, eventually decreasing from 3.8 in 2000 to 2.9 in 2010, although the rate varied by income, education, and rural versus urban location. Despite continuing fertility reduction, Cambodia still has a youthful population that is likely to maintain population growth through population momentum. Improvements have also been made in mortality, life expectancy, and contraceptive prevalence, although reducing malnutrition among children remains stalled. Differences in health indicators are pronounced between urban and rural areas, which experience greater poverty.

Cambodia is predominantly a country of migration, driven by the search for work, education, or marriage. Internal migration is more prevalent than international migration, with rural to urban migration being the most common, followed by rural to rural migration. Urban migration focuses on the pursuit of unskilled or semi-skilled jobs in Phnom Penh, with men working mainly in the construction industry and women working in garment factories. Most Cambodians who migrate abroad do so illegally using brokers because it is cheaper and faster than through formal channels, but doing so puts them at risk of being trafficked for forced labor or sexual exploitation. Young Cambodian men and women migrate short distances across the Thai border using temporary passes to work in agriculture, while others migrate long distances primarily into Thailand and Malaysia for work in agriculture, fishing, construction, manufacturing, and domestic service. Cambodia was a refugee sending country in the 1970s and 1980s as a result of the brutality of the Khmer Rouge regime, its ousting by the Vietnamese invasion, and the resultant civil war. Tens of thousands of Cambodians fled to Thailand; more than 100,000 were resettled in the US in the 1980s. Cambodia signed a multi-million dollar agreement with Australia in 2014 to voluntarily resettle refugees seeking shelter in Australia. However, the deal has proven to be a failure because of poor conditions and a lack of support services for the few refugees willing to accept the offer.

Age structure

0-14 years: 29.47% (male 2,518,910/female 2,459,235)

15-64 years: 65.39% (male 5,362,180/female 5,682,247)

65 years and over: 5.14% (2023 est.) (male 308,931/female 559,742)

Figure 22 is the 2023 population pyramid for Cambodia. A population pyramid illustrates the age and sex structure of a country's population and may provide insights about political and social stability, as well as economic development. The population is distributed along the horizontal axis, with males shown on the left and females on the right. The male and female populations are broken down into 5-year age groups represented as horizontal bars along the vertical axis, with the youngest age groups at the bottom and the oldest at the top.<sup>509</sup>

Dependency ratios

total dependency ratio: 53.4

youth dependency ratio: 45

elderly dependency ratio: 8.5

potential support ratio: 11.8 (2021 est.)

Median age

total: 26.4 years

male: 25.6 years

female: 27.2 years (2020 est.)

comparison ranking: total 153

Population growth rate

1.04% (2023 est.)

comparison ranking: 90

Birth rate

18.75 births/1,000 population (2023 est.)

comparison ranking: 74

Death rate

5.7 deaths/1,000 population (2023 est.)

comparison ranking: 171

Net migration rate

-2.67 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2023 est.)

comparison ranking: 176

Population distribution

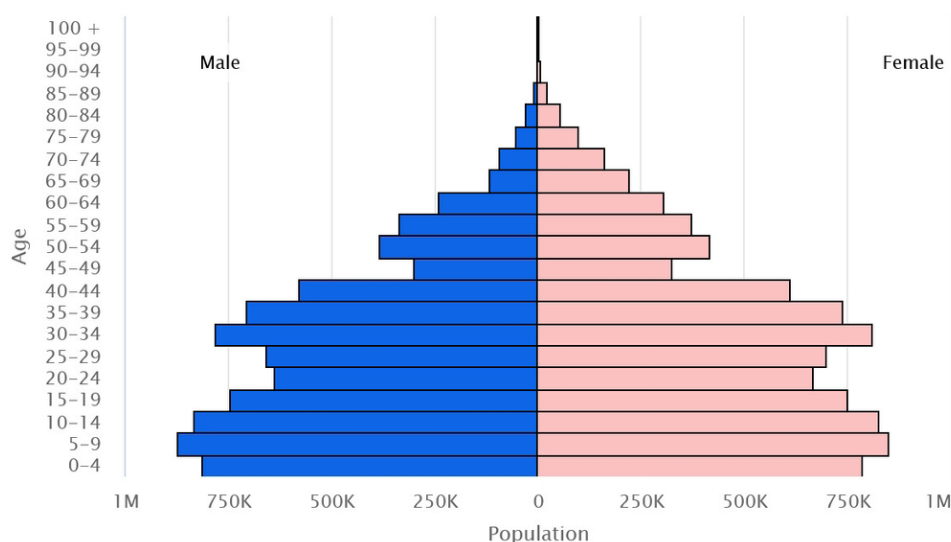
population concentrated in the southeast, particularly in and around the capital of Phnom Penh; further distribution is linked closely to the Tonle Sap and Mekong Rivers

Urbanization

urban population: 25.6% of total population (2023)

rate of urbanization: 3.06% annual rate of change (2020-25 est.)

total population growth rate v. urban population growth rate, 2000-2030



U.S. Census Bureau, International Database

**Figure 22: Population Pyramid, Cambodia (2023)**

Major urban areas - population  
2.281 million PHNOM PENH (capital) (2023)

Sex ratio  
at birth: 1.05 male(s)/female  
0-14 years: 1.02 male(s)/female  
15-64 years: 0.94 male(s)/female  
65 years and over: 0.55 male(s)/female  
total population: 0.94 male(s)/female (2023 est.)

Mother's mean age at first birth  
22.4 years (2014 est.)  
note: data represents median age at first birth  
among women 25-49

Maternal mortality ratio  
218 deaths/100,000 live births (2020 est.)  
comparison ranking: 42

Infant mortality rate  
total: 28.75 deaths/1,000 live births  
male: 32.22 deaths/1,000 live births  
female: 25.12 deaths/1,000 live births (2023 est.)  
comparison ranking: total 54

Life expectancy at birth  
total population: 71.03 years  
male: 69.17 years  
female: 72.97 years (2023 est.)  
comparison ranking: total population 168

Total fertility rate  
2.2 children born/woman (2023 est.)  
comparison ranking: 84

Gross reproduction rate  
1.08 (2023 est.)

Contraceptive prevalence rate  
56.3% (2014)

Drinking water source  
improved: urban: 99.3% of population  
rural: 80.6% of population  
total: 85.1% of population  
unimproved: urban: 0.7% of population  
rural: 19.4% of population  
total: 14.9% of population (2020 est.)

Current health expenditure  
7.5% of GDP (2020)

Physicians density  
0.19 physicians/1,000 population (2014)

Hospital bed density  
1.9 beds/1,000 population (2016)

Sanitation facility access  
improved: urban: 100% of population  
rural: 69.3% of population  
total: 76.8% of population  
unimproved: urban: 0% of population  
rural: 30.7% of population  
total: 23.2% of population (2020 est.)

Major infectious diseases  
degree of risk: very high (2023)  
food or waterborne diseases: bacterial diarrhea,  
hepatitis A, and typhoid fever  
vectorborne diseases: dengue fever, Japanese  
encephalitis, and malaria

Obesity - adult prevalence rate  
3.9% (2016)  
comparison ranking: 188

Alcohol consumption per capita  
total: 4.56 liters of pure alcohol (2019 est.)  
beer: 4.12 liters of pure alcohol (2019 est.)  
wine: 0.03 liters of pure alcohol (2019 est.)  
spirits: 0.41 liters of pure alcohol (2019 est.)  
other alcohols: 0 liters of pure alcohol (2019 est.)  
comparison ranking: total 87

Tobacco use  
total: 21.1% (2020 est.)  
male: 36.1% (2020 est.)  
female: 6% (2020 est.)  
comparison ranking: total 79

Children under the age of 5 years underweight  
24.1% (2014)  
comparison ranking: 12

Currently married women (ages 15-49)

66.4% (2023 est.)

Education expenditures

3.1% of GDP (2020 est.)

comparison ranking: 155

Literacy

definition: age 15 and over can read and write

total population: 83.9%

male: 88.4%

female: 79.8% (2021)

Youth unemployment rate (ages 15-24)

total: 1.8%

male: 1.6%

female: 2.1% (2021 est.)

comparison ranking: total 201

**Environment**Environment - current issues

illegal logging activities throughout the country and strip mining for gems in the western region along the border with Thailand have resulted in habitat loss and declining biodiversity (in particular, destruction of mangrove swamps threatens natural fisheries); soil erosion; in rural areas, most of the population does not have access to potable water; declining fish stocks because of illegal fishing and overfishing; coastal ecosystems choked by sediment washed loose from deforested areas inland

Environment - international agreements

party to: Biodiversity, Climate Change, Climate Change-Kyoto Protocol, Climate Change-Paris Agreement, Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban, Desertification, Endangered Species, Hazardous Wastes, Marine Life Conservation, Ozone Layer Protection, Ship Pollution, Tropical Timber 2006, Wetlands, Whaling  
signed, but not ratified: Law of the Sea

Climate

tropical; rainy, monsoon season (May to

November); dry season (December to April);

little seasonal temperature variation

Land use

agricultural land: 32.1% (2018 est.)

arable land: 22.7% (2018 est.)

permanent crops: 0.9% (2018 est.)

permanent pasture: 8.5% (2018 est.)

forest: 56.5% (2018 est.)

other: 11.4% (2018 est.)

Urbanization

urban population: 25.6% of total population (2023)

rate of urbanization: 3.06% annual rate of change (2020-25 est.)

total population growth rate v. urban population growth rate, 2000-2030

Revenue from forest resources

0.84% of GDP (2018 est.)

comparison ranking: 57

Revenue from coal

0% of GDP (2018 est.)

comparison ranking: 87

Air pollutants

particulate matter emissions: 23.98 micrograms per cubic meter (2016 est.)

carbon dioxide emissions: 9.92 megatons (2016 est.)

methane emissions: 14.88 megatons (2020 est.)

Waste and recycling

municipal solid waste generated annually: 1.089 million tons (2014 est.)

Major lakes (area sq km)

freshwater lake(s): Tonle Sap - 2,700-16,000 sq km

Major rivers (by length in km)

Mekong (shared with China [s], Burma, Thailand, Laos, and Vietnam [m]) - 4,350 km  
note – [s] after country name indicates river source; [m] after country name indicates river mouth

Major watersheds (area sq km)

Pacific Ocean drainage: Mekong (805,604 sq km)

Total water withdrawal

municipal: 100 million cubic meters (2020 est.)

industrial: 30 million cubic meters (2020 est.)

agricultural: 2.05 billion cubic meters (2020 est.)

Total renewable water resources

476.1 billion cubic meters (2020 est.)

**Government**

Country name

conventional long form: Kingdom of Cambodia

conventional short form: Cambodia

local long form: Preahreacheanachakr

Kampuchea (phonetic transliteration)

local short form: Kampuchea

former: Khmer Republic, Democratic

Kampuchea, People's Republic of Kampuchea,

State of Cambodia

etymology: the English name Cambodia is an

anglicization of the French Cambodge, which

is the French transliteration of the native name

Kampuchea

Government type

parliamentary constitutional monarchy

Capital

name: Phnom Penh

geographic coordinates: 11 33 N, 104 55 E

time difference: UTC+7 (12 hours ahead of

Washington, DC, during Standard Time)

etymology: Phnom Penh translates as "Penh's

Hill" in Khmer; the city takes its name from

the present Wat Phnom (Hill Temple), the

tallest religious structure in the city, whose

establishment, according to legend, was inspired

in the 14th century by a pious nun, Daun PENH

Administrative divisions

24 provinces (khett, singular and plural) and 1

municipality (krong, singular and plural)

provinces: Banteay Meanchey, Battambang,

Kampong Cham, Kampong Chhnang, Kampong

Speu, Kampong Thom, Kampot, Kandal, Kep,

Koh Kong, Kratie, Mondolkiri, Oddar Meanchey,

Pailin, Preah Sihanouk, Preah Vihear, Prey Veng,

Pursat, Ratanakiri, Siem Reap, Stung Treng, Svay

Rieng, Takeo, Tbong Khmum

municipalities: Phnom Penh (Phnum Penh)

Independence

9 November 1953 (from France)

National holiday

Independence Day, 9 November (1953)

Constitution

history: previous 1947; latest promulgated 21

September 1993

amendments: proposed by the monarch, by

the prime minister, or by the president of the

National Assembly if supported by one fourth of

the Assembly membership; passage requires two-

thirds majority of the Assembly membership;

constitutional articles on the multiparty

democratic form of government and the

monarchy cannot be amended; amended several

times, latest 2022

Legal system

civil law system (influenced by the UN

Transitional Authority in Cambodia) customary

law, Communist legal theory, and common law

International law organization participation

accepts compulsory ICJ jurisdiction with

reservations; accepts ICtJ jurisdiction

Citizenship

citizenship by birth: no

citizenship by descent only: at least one parent

must be a citizen of Cambodia

dual citizenship recognized: yes

residency requirement for naturalization: 7 years

Suffrage

18 years of age; universal

Executive branch

chief of state: King Norodom SIHAMONI (since 29 October 2004)

head of government: Prime Minister HUN MANET (since 22 August 2023)

cabinet: Council of Ministers named by the prime minister and appointed by the monarch  
elections/appointments: monarch chosen by the 9-member Royal Council of the Throne from among all eligible males of royal descent; following legislative elections, a member of the majority party or majority coalition named prime minister by the Chairman of the National Assembly and appointed by the monarch  
Prime Minister HUN MANET succeeded his father, HUN SEN who had been prime minister since 1985

Legislative branch

description: bicameral Parliament of Cambodia consists of:

Senate (62 seats; 58 indirectly elected by parliamentarians and commune councils, 2 indirectly elected by the National Assembly, and 2 appointed by the monarch; members serve 6-year terms)

National Assembly (125 seats; members directly elected in multi-seat constituencies by proportional representation vote; members serve 5-year terms)

elections: Senate - last held on 25 February 2018 (next to be held in 2024); National Assembly - last held on 23 July 2023 (next to be held in July 2028)

election results: Senate - percent of vote by party - CPP 96%, FUNCINPEC 2.4%, KNUP 1.6%; seats by party - CPP 58; FUNCINPEC 4; composition (as of April 2023) - men 52, women 10, percent of women 16.1%

National Assembly - percent of vote by party (July 2023 election)- CPP 82.4%, FUNCINPEC 9.2%, KNUP 1.7%, CYP 1.3%, Other 5.4% (14 other parties received votes); seats by party - CPP 125, FUNCINPEC 5; composition (as of April 2023) - men 99, women 26, percent of women 20.8%; note - total Parliament of Cambodia percent of women 19.3%

note: the CPP had no meaningful opposition in the July 2023 legislative election as the only serious challenger, the Candlelight Party, was disqualified on a technicality in advance of the election; the EU, UN, and US condemned the poll as neither free nor fair

Judicial branch

highest court(s): Supreme Council (organized into 5- and 9-judge panels and includes a court chief and deputy chief); Constitutional Court (consists of 9 members); note - in 1997, the Cambodian Government requested UN assistance in establishing trials to prosecute former Khmer Rouge senior leaders for crimes against humanity committed during the 1975-1979 Khmer Rouge regime; the Extraordinary Chambers of the Courts of Cambodia (also called the Khmer Rouge Tribunal) was established in 2006 and began hearings for the first case in 2009; court proceedings remain ongoing in 2021  
judge selection and term of office: Supreme Court and Constitutional Council judge candidates recommended by the Supreme Council of Magistracy, a 17-member body chaired by the monarch and includes other high-level judicial officers; judges of both courts appointed by the monarch; Supreme Court judges appointed for life; Constitutional Council judges appointed for 9-year terms with one-third of the court renewed every 3 years  
subordinate courts: Appellate Court; provincial and municipal courts; Military Court

Political parties and leaders

Candlelight Party or CP (the latest incarnation of the Sam Rainsy Party or SRP, which joined with the Human Rights Party or HRP to form the Cambodia National Rescue Party or CNRP in 2012; the CNRP was dissolved in 2017)  
Cambodian People's Party or CPP [HUN SEN]  
Cambodian Youth Party [PICH Sros]  
Grassroots Democratic Party [YENG Virak]  
Khmer National Unity Party or KNUP (an offshoot of FUNCINPEC) [NHEK BUN CHHAY]

League for Democracy Party or LDP [KHEM Veasna]

National United Front for Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia or FUNCINPEC [Prince NORODOM CHAKRAVUTH]

note 1: 42 parties had registered with the Cambodian Government at the beginning of 2023

note 2: following the 2017 commune election, the CPP-led government arrested the CNRP president Kem SOKHA for treason, dissolved the party on similar grounds, and forced most of its senior leadership into exile, where the party's former president, Sam RAINSY, had been living since late 2015; opposition parties, particularly the Candlelight Party, continue to report, intimidation, harassment, and arrests by the Cambodian Government; in May 2023, the Cambodian Government disqualified the Candlelight Party, which is the main opposition party, from the July 2023 election

International organization participation

ADB, ARF, ASEAN, CICA, EAS, FAO, G-77, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICRM, IDA, IFAD, IFC, IFRCs, ILO, IMF, IMO, Interpol, IOC, IOM, IPU, ISO (correspondent), ITU, MINUSMA, MIGA, NAM, OIF, OPCW, PCA, UN, UNAMID, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UNIFIL, UNISFA, UNMISS, UNWTO, UPU, WCO, WFTU (NGOs), WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO

Diplomatic representation in the US

chief of mission: Ambassador KEO Chhea (since 19 April 2022)

chancery: 4530 16th Street NW, Washington, DC 20011

Tel: [1] (202) 726-7742

Fax: [1] (202) 726-8381

Email: [camemb.usa@mfaic.gov.kh](mailto:camemb.usa@mfaic.gov.kh)

Web: <https://www.embassyofcambodiadc.org/>

Diplomatic representation from the US

chief of mission: Ambassador W. Patrick MURPHY (since 23 October 2019)

embassy: #1, Street 96, Sangkat Wat Phnom,

Khan Daun Penh, Phnom Penh

mailing address: 4540 Phnom Penh Place, Washington DC 20521-4540

Tel: [855] (23) 728-000

Fax: [855] (23) 728-700

Email: [ACSPnomPenh@state.gov](mailto:ACSPnomPenh@state.gov)

Website: <https://kh.usembassy.gov/>

Flag description

three horizontal bands of blue (top), red (double width), and blue with a white, three-towered temple, representing Angkor Wat, outlined in black in the center of the red band; red and blue are traditional Cambodian colors

note: only national flag to prominently incorporate an actual identifiable building into its design (a few other national flags - those of Afghanistan, San Marino, Portugal, and Spain - show small generic buildings as part of their coats of arms on the flag)

National symbol(s)

Angkor Wat temple, kouprey (wild ox); national colors: red, blue

National anthem

name: "Nokoreach" (Royal Kingdom)

lyrics/music: CHUON NAT/F. PERRUCHOT and J. JEKYL

note: adopted 1941, restored 1993; the anthem, based on a Cambodian folk tune, was restored after the defeat of the Communist regime

National heritage

total World Heritage Sites: 3 (all cultural)

selected World Heritage Site locales: Angkor; Temple of Preah Vihear; Sambor Prei Kuk

**Economy**

Real GDP (purchasing power parity)

\$72.238 billion (2021 est.)

\$70.116 billion (2020 est.)

\$72.356 billion (2019 est.)

note: data are in 2017 US dollars

comparison ranking: 103

Real GDP growth rate

3.03% (2021 est.)

-3.1% (2020 est.)

7.05% (2019 est.)

comparison ranking: 143

Real GDP per capita

\$4,400 (2021 est.)

\$4,300 (2020 est.)

\$4,500 (2019 est.)

note: data are in 2017 US dollars

comparison ranking: 181

GDP (official exchange rate)

\$22.09 billion (2017 est.)

Inflation rate (consumer prices)

2.92% (2021 est.)

2.94% (2020 est.)

1.94% (2019 est.)

comparison ranking: 122

Credit ratings

Moody's rating: B2 (2007)

Standard &amp; Poor's rating: N/A (2014)

note: The year refers to the year in which the current credit rating was first obtained.

GDP - composition, by sector of origin

agriculture: 25.3% (2017 est.)

industry: 32.8% (2017 est.)

services: 41.9% (2017 est.)

comparison rankings: agriculture 28; industry 61; services 206

GDP - composition, by end use

household consumption: 76% (2017 est.)

government consumption: 5.4% (2017 est.)

investment in fixed capital: 21.8% (2017 est.)

investment in inventories: 1.2% (2017 est.)

exports of goods and services: 68.6% (2017 est.)

imports of goods and services: -73% (2017 est.)

Agricultural products

cassava, rice, maize, vegetables, sugar cane, soybeans, rubber, oil palm fruit, bananas, pork

Industries

tourism, garments, construction, rice milling, fishing, wood and wood products, rubber, cement, gem mining, textiles

Industrial production growth rate

9.37% (2021 est.)

comparison ranking: 34

Labor force

9.345 million (2021 est.)

comparison ranking: 57

Labor force - by occupation

agriculture: 48.7%

industry: 19.9%

services: 31.5% (2013 est.)

Unemployment rate

0.61% (2021 est.)

0.33% (2020 est.)

0.15% (2019 est.)

note: high underemployment, according to official statistics

comparison ranking: 226

Youth unemployment rate (ages 15-24)

total: 1.8%

male: 1.6%

female: 2.1% (2021 est.)

comparison ranking: total 201

Population below poverty line

16.5% (2016 est.)

Gini Index coefficient - distribution of family income

37.9 (2008 est.)

comparison ranking: 78

Average household expenditures

on food: 42.3% of household expenditures (2018 est.)

on alcohol and tobacco: 2.2% of household expenditures (2018 est.)

Household income or consumption by percentage share  
lowest 10%: 2%  
highest 10%: 28% (2013 est.)

Budget  
revenues: \$7.254 billion (2019 est.)  
expenditures: \$6.452 billion (2019 est.)

Budget surplus (+) or deficit (-)  
-1.8% (of GDP) (2017 est.)  
comparison ranking: 98

Public debt  
30.4% of GDP (2017 est.)  
29.1% of GDP (2016 est.)  
comparison ranking: 171

Taxes and other revenues  
17.89% (of GDP) (2020 est.)  
comparison ranking: 112

Fiscal year  
calendar year

Current account balance  
-\$12.321 billion (2021 est.)  
-\$2.197 billion (2020 est.)  
-\$4.065 billion (2019 est.)  
comparison ranking: 197

Exports  
\$20.126 billion (2021 est.)  
\$20.29 billion (2020 est.)  
\$21.072 billion (2019 est.)  
note: Data are in current year dollars and do not include illicit exports or re-exports.  
comparison ranking: 86

Exports - partners  
United States 21%, Singapore 8%, Thailand 8%, Germany 7%, Japan 6%, China 5%, Canada 5%, United Kingdom 5% (2019)

Exports - commodities  
clothing and footwear, trunks and cases, rice, rubber, light fixtures (2021)  
note: Cambodian methamphetamine production remains a significant illicit trade export

Imports  
\$32.83 billion (2021 est.)  
\$23.091 billion (2020 est.)  
\$25.516 billion (2019 est.)  
note: data are in current year dollars  
comparison ranking: 72

Imports - partners  
China 27%, Thailand 25%, Vietnam 15%, Singapore 8% (2019)

Imports - commodities  
refined petroleum, clothing, gold, cars, flavored water (2019)

Reserves of foreign exchange and gold  
\$20.27 billion (31 December 2021 est.)  
\$21.328 billion (31 December 2020 est.)  
\$18.771 billion (31 December 2019 est.)  
comparison ranking: 66

Debt - external  
\$11.87 billion (31 December 2017 est.)  
\$10.3 billion (31 December 2016 est.)  
comparison ranking: 108

Exchange rates  
riels (KHR) per US dollar -  
4,098.723 (2021 est.)  
4,092.783 (2020 est.)  
4,061.149 (2019 est.)  
4,051.167 (2018 est.)  
4,050.58 (2017 est.)

**Energy**

Electricity access  
population without electricity: 4 million (2020)  
electrification - total population: 82.5% (2021)  
electrification - urban areas: 98.9% (2021)  
electrification - rural areas: 77.1% (2021)

Electricity  
installed generating capacity: 2.954 million kW (2020 est.)  
consumption: 10,288,340,000 kWh (2019 est.)

exports: 0 kWh (2019 est.)  
 imports: 3.063 billion kWh (2019 est.)  
 transmission/distribution losses: 1.187 billion kWh (2019 est.)  
 comparison rankings: installed generating capacity 109; consumption 100; exports 156; imports 52; transmission/distribution losses 106

#### Electricity generation sources

fossil fuels: 52% of total installed capacity (2020 est.)  
 nuclear: 0% of total installed capacity (2020 est.)  
 solar: 1.2% of total installed capacity (2020 est.)  
 wind: 0% of total installed capacity (2020 est.)  
 hydroelectricity: 45.6% of total installed capacity (2020 est.)  
 tide and wave: 0% of total installed capacity (2020 est.)  
 geothermal: 0% of total installed capacity (2020 est.)  
 biomass and waste: 1.2% of total installed capacity (2020 est.)

#### Coal

production: 0 metric tons (2020 est.)  
 consumption: 2.974 million metric tons (2020 est.)  
 exports: 0 metric tons (2020 est.)  
 imports: 3.311 million metric tons (2020 est.)  
 proven reserves: 0 metric tons (2019 est.)

#### Petroleum

total petroleum production: 0 bbl/day (2021 est.)  
 refined petroleum consumption: 64,100 bbl/day (2019 est.)  
 crude oil and lease condensate exports: 0 bbl/day (2018 est.)  
 crude oil and lease condensate imports: 0 bbl/day (2018 est.)  
 crude oil estimated reserves: 0 barrels (2021 est.)

#### Refined petroleum products - production

0 bbl/day (2015 est.)  
 comparison ranking: 159

#### Refined petroleum products - exports

0 bbl/day (2015 est.)  
 comparison ranking: 210

#### Refined petroleum products - imports

43,030 bbl/day (2015 est.)  
 comparison ranking: 86

#### Natural gas

production: 0 cubic meters (2021 est.)  
 consumption: 0 cubic meters (2021 est.)  
 exports: 0 cubic meters (2021 est.)  
 imports: 0 cubic meters (2021 est.)  
 proven reserves: 0 cubic meters (2021 est.)

#### Carbon dioxide emissions

13.844 million metric tonnes of CO2 (2019 est.)  
 from coal and metallurgical coke: 4.837 million metric tonnes of CO2 (2019 est.)  
 from petroleum and other liquids: 9.007 million metric tonnes of CO2 (2019 est.)  
 from consumed natural gas: 0 metric tonnes of CO2 (2019 est.)  
 comparison ranking: total emissions 98

#### Energy consumption per capita

13.629 million Btu/person (2019 est.)  
 comparison ranking: 142

### **Communications**

#### Telephones - fixed lines

total subscriptions: 40,296 (2021 est.)  
 subscriptions per 100 inhabitants: (2021 est.) less than 1  
 comparison ranking: total subscriptions 162

#### Telephones - mobile cellular

total subscriptions: 19,899,790 (2021 est.)  
 subscriptions per 100 inhabitants: 120 (2021 est.)  
 comparison ranking: total subscriptions 61

#### Telecommunication systems

general assessment: Cambodia's mobile-dominated telecoms sector spent much of 2020 battling two major challenges: the global pandemic, and the government's retraction of

trial licenses for the rollout of 5G; citing concerns about waste and inefficiency occurring if each operator built a separate 5G infrastructure in order to maximize their own network's coverage (and, presumably, to capture greater market share), the regulator withdrew the licenses that the operators had been using for their 5G trials; this was despite all of the operators having already announced a successful completion of their trials; more than a year later, the market is still waiting on the government to release its 5G policy and roadmap, along with the allocation of spectrum and approvals to permit commercial operation; there is little expectation of any further progress happening before the start of 2022; the mobile network operators have maintained their focus and investment strategies on upgrading and expanding their existing LTE networks around the country, and to 5G-enable their base stations; when the 5G market eventually arrives, the underlying infrastructure will at least be ready to support a rapid adoption of the higher-value applications and services; the mobile market fell back slightly during 2020 and 2021 (in terms of total subscriber numbers) as the Covid-19 crisis wore on, but it remains in relatively good health as mobile users increased their data usage over the period; the mobile broadband market experienced a small but very rare contraction in 2020, although rates were already very high in this area; there is likely to be a quick rebound to previous levels once economic conditions stabilize, followed by a modest rates of growth over the next five years; the number of fixed telephony lines in service continues to fall sharply as customers migrate to mobile platforms for both voice and data; the lack of any widespread fixed-line infrastructure has had a flow-on effect in the fixed-line broadband market, a sector that also remains largely under-developed (2021)  
domestic: fixed-line connections stand at less than 1 per 100 persons; mobile-cellular usage, aided by competition among service providers, is about 120 per 100 persons (2021)  
international: country code - 855; landing points for MCT and AAE-1 via submarine cables

providing communication to Asia, the Middle East, Europe and Africa; satellite earth station - 1 Intersputnik (Indian Ocean region) (2019)

Broadcast media

mixture of state-owned, joint public-private, and privately owned broadcast media; 27 TV broadcast stations with most operating on multiple channels, including 1 state-operated station broadcasting from multiple locations, 11 stations either jointly operated or privately owned with some broadcasting from several locations; multi-channel cable and satellite systems are available (2019); 84 radio broadcast stations - 1 state-owned broadcaster with multiple stations and a large mixture of public and private broadcasters; one international broadcaster is available (2019) as well as one Chinese joint venture television station with the Ministry of Interior; several television and radio operators broadcast online only (often via Facebook) (2019)

Internet country code

.kh

Internet users

total: 10.2 million (2021 est.)  
percent of population: 60% (2021 est.)  
comparison ranking: total 57

Broadband - fixed subscriptions

total: 233,732 (2020 est.)  
subscriptions per 100 inhabitants: 1 (2020 est.)  
comparison ranking: total 114

**Transportation**

National air transport system

number of registered air carriers: 6 (2020)  
inventory of registered aircraft operated by air carriers: 25  
annual passenger traffic on registered air carriers: 1,411,059 (2018)  
annual freight traffic on registered air carriers: 680,000 (2018) mt-km

Civil aircraft registration country code prefix  
XU

#### Airports

16 (2021)

comparison ranking: total 142

#### Airports - with paved runways

6

note: paved runways have a concrete or asphalt surface but not all have facilities for refueling, maintenance, or air traffic control; the length of a runway required for aircraft to safely operate depends on a number of factors including the type of aircraft, the takeoff weight (including passengers, cargo, and fuel), engine types, flap settings, landing speed, elevation of the airport, and average maximum daily air temperature; paved runways can reach a length of 5,000 m (16,000 ft.), but the “typical” length of a commercial airline runway is between 2,500-4,000 m (8,000-13,000 ft.)

#### Airports - with unpaved runways

10

note: unpaved runways have a surface composition such as grass or packed earth and are most suited to the operation of light aircraft; unpaved runways are usually short, often less than 1,000 m (3,280 ft.) in length; airports with unpaved runways often lack facilities for refueling, maintenance, or air traffic control

#### Heliports

1 (2021)

#### Railways

total: 642 km (2014)

narrow gauge: 642 km (2014) 1.000-m gauge

note: under restoration

comparison ranking: total 106

#### Roadways

total: 47,263 km (2013)

paved: 12,239 km (2013)

unpaved: 35,024 km (2013)

comparison ranking: total 83

#### Waterways

3,700 km (2012) (mainly on Mekong River)

comparison ranking: 30

#### Merchant marine

total: 242

by type: container ship 2, general cargo 159, oil tanker 18, other 63 (2022)

comparison ranking: total 62

#### Ports and terminals

major seaport(s): Sihanoukville (Kampong Saom)

river port(s): Phnom Penh (Mekong)

### **Military and Security**

#### Military and security forces

Royal Cambodian Armed Forces (RCAF): Royal Cambodian Army, Royal Khmer Navy, Royal Cambodian Air Force, Royal Gendarmerie; the National Committee for Maritime Security (2023)

note 1: the National Committee for Maritime Security performs coast guard functions and has representation from military and civilian agencies

note 2: the Cambodian National Police are under the Ministry of Interior

#### Military expenditures

2.5% of GDP (2021 est.)

2.5% of GDP (2020 est.)

2.2% of GDP (2019 est.)

2.2% of GDP (2018 est.)

2.1% of GDP (2017 est.)

comparison ranking: 57

#### Military and security service personnel strengths

information varies; approximately 100,000 total active troops including less than 5,000 Navy and Air Force personnel; approximately 10,000 Gendarmerie (2022)

Military equipment inventories and acquisitions  
the RCAF is armed largely with older Chinese and Russian-origin equipment; in recent years it has received limited amounts of more modern equipment from a variety of suppliers, particularly China (2023)

note: in December 2021, the US Government halted arms-related trade with Cambodia, citing deepening Chinese military influence, corruption, and human rights abuses by the government and armed forces; the policy of denial applied to licenses or other approvals for exports and imports of defense articles and defense services destined for or originating in Cambodia, with exceptions (on a case-by-case basis) related to conventional weapons destruction and humanitarian demining activities

### Military service age and obligation

18 is the legal minimum age for compulsory and voluntary military service (conscription only selectively enforced since 1993; service is for 18 months); women may volunteer (2023)

note: in 2018, women made up an estimated 6% of the active-duty military and 88 women held the rank of general

### Military deployments

225 Central African Republic (MINUSCA); 180 Lebanon (UNIFIL); 290 Mali (MINUSMA) (May 2022)

### Military - note

outside of periodic border skirmishes with Thailand, the RCAF's primary responsibilities are border, coastal, and internal security; since 2016, the RCAF has conducted a small annual training exercise known as "Golden Dragon" with the military of China, except for 2021-2022 when it was canceled because of the COVID-19 pandemic; the Army has a few infantry divisions and an estimated 10-15 brigades, including about 5 rapid reaction "intervention" brigades, a border security brigade, and a prime minister's bodyguard brigade, as well as an airborne/special operations brigade under a special forces

command created in 2020; the Navy maintains a small force of patrol boats and a naval infantry brigade for coastal defense; the Air Force has a small number of combat and transport helicopters; the Royal Gendarmerie is reportedly organized into battalions and several mobile response units

the RCAF was re-established in 1993 under the first coalition government from the merger of the Cambodian Government's military forces (Cambodian People's Armed Forces) and the two non-communist resistance forces (Sihanoukist National Army, aka National Army for Khmer Independence, and the Khmer People's National Liberation Armed Forces); thousands of communist Khmer Rouge fighters began surrendering by 1994 under a government amnesty program and the last of the Khmer Rouge forces (National Army of Democratic Kampuchea) were demobilized or absorbed into the RCAF in 1999

Cambodia continues to be one of the most densely landmine-contaminated countries in the world; by the early 1990s, various aid organizations estimated there were 8 to 10 million landmines scattered throughout the country, with a particularly heavy concentration on a 1,000-km strip along the northwest Thai-Cambodia border known as the "K5 belt"; the mines were laid during Cambodia's decades-long war by the Cambodian army, the Vietnamese, the Khmer Rouge, the non-communist fighters, and US forces; part of Cambodia's defense policy is demining the territory with the intent of having the entire country cleared of unexploded ordnances by 2035; over 1 million landmines and over 3 million explosives were discovered and removed from 1992 to 2018; in 2018, the Cambodian government and Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA), a government agency, launched the National Mine Action Strategy for 2018-2025 (2023)

## Transnational Issues

### Disputes - international

Cambodia-Laos: Cambodia is concerned that Laos' extensive upstream dam construction will affect Cambodian waters downstream

Cambodia-Thailand: Cambodia and Thailand have agreed to maintain peace along the border regardless of the decision of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) over territorial dispute near Cambodia's Preah Vihear Temple; the ICJ decision of 11 November 2013 determined that Cambodia had sovereignty over the whole territory of the promontory of Preah Vihear; the border disputes do not involve large amounts of territory, and most of the issues were settled by the Nov. 11, 2013 ICJ ruling

Cambodia-Vietnam: issues include casinos built in Cambodia near the border (gambling and prostitution); narcotics (criminals, crime, and abuse); trafficking of women and children, petrol smuggling into Cambodia from Vietnam, illegal logging, and illegal migration; a positive development is the special economic Zone in Bavet, Svay Rieng Province, Cambodia that is being developed by the Manhattan (Svay Rieng) International Group of Taiwan

Refugees and internally displaced persons  
stateless persons: 75,000 (2022)

### Trafficking in persons

tier rating: Tier 3 — Cambodia does not fully meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking and is not making significant efforts to do so; therefore, Cambodia was downgraded to Tier 3; authorities took some steps to address trafficking, including continuing to arrest, prosecute and convict some traffickers, and identifying and assisting some victims; however, corruption continued to impede law enforcement efforts, legal actions, and provision of services to victims; authorities did not investigate or take legal action against any officials involved in the large majority of credible reports of complicity; officials failed to proactively identify victims among the highly

vulnerable groups of men, women, and children subjected to human trafficking throughout the country; authorities did not provide adequate protection for victims domestically or overseas and relied heavily on foreign donors and NGOs to provide care (2022)

trafficking profile: human traffickers exploit Cambodian men, women, and children in forced labor and sex trafficking in Cambodia and abroad, and foreign nationals are trafficked in Cambodia; Cambodian adults and children migrate to other countries in the region or increasingly to the Middle East where traffickers force them to work in agriculture, fishing, construction, manufacturing, and domestic servitude; significant numbers of Cambodian men and boys are subject to forced labor on Thai ships in international waters and may experience physical abuse, nonpayment or underpayment of wages, and confinement at sea; brick kiln owners exploit thousands of Cambodians, including children, through debt-based coercion; children from poor families are vulnerable to forced labor, often with the complicity of their parents, in domestic servitude, forced begging, or street vending in Thailand and Vietnam; traffickers recruit Cambodian women and girls from rural areas under false pretenses, or sometimes through complicit parents, to travel to the PRC to marry PRC-national men where they are subject to sex trafficking or forced labor; Cambodian and ethnic Vietnamese women and girls from rural areas move to cities and tourist areas where they are sex trafficked (2022)

### Illicit drugs

a significant transshipment country for Burma-sourced methamphetamine and heroin and a location for large-scale ketamine production; transnational criminal organizations (TCO's) use Cambodia as both a transit and destination for illicit drugs; precursor chemicals from mainly China used at domestic clandestine laboratories operated by TCOs for the manufacturing of methamphetamine, ketamine, and other synthetic drugs (2021)

## Acronyms and Abbreviations

|            |                                                                                                             |
|------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| °          | degree(s) – of temperature (Celsius or Fahrenheit) or latitude and longitude (North, South, East, and West) |
| \$         | dollar(s) – U.S. or Australian                                                                              |
| AADMER     | ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response                                               |
| ADINet     | ASEAN Disaster Information Net                                                                              |
| ADPC       | Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre                                                                          |
| AET        | Applied Epidemiology Training                                                                               |
| AHA Centre | ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management                                |
| ART        | antiretroviral therapy                                                                                      |
| ASEAN      | Association of Southeast Asian Nations                                                                      |
| ASEX       | ASEAN Solidarity Exercise                                                                                   |
| ASSI       | ASEAN Safe Schools Initiative                                                                               |
| BCE / CE   | Before Common Era / Common Era (formerly BC / AD)                                                           |
| BHA        | Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (of USAID)                                                               |
| BRI        | Belt and Road Initiative                                                                                    |
| CAMDI      | Cambodia Disaster Loss and Damage Information System                                                        |
| CamPPR     | Cambodia Pandemic Prevention Preparedness and Response                                                      |
| CCA        | climate change adaptation                                                                                   |
| CCCN       | Cambodia Climate Change Network                                                                             |
| CCD        | Climate Change Department                                                                                   |
| CCDM       | Commune Committee for Disaster Management                                                                   |
| CCSP       | Climate Change Strategic Plan                                                                               |
| CCTWG      | Climate Change Technical Working Group                                                                      |
| CDC        | Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (of the U.S.)                                                    |
| CEDAW      | Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women                                      |
| CEO        | Chief Executive Officer                                                                                     |
| CFE-DM     | Center for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance                                    |
| CHF        | Cambodian Humanitarian Forum                                                                                |
| cm         | centimeter(s)                                                                                               |
| CNCW       | Cambodian National Council for Women                                                                        |
| CNM        | National Center for Parasitology, Entomology and Malaria Control                                            |
| CNRP       | Cambodia National Rescue Party                                                                              |
| COVID-19   | Coronavirus Disease-2019                                                                                    |
| CP         | Contingency Plan                                                                                            |
| CPK        | Communist Party of Kampuchea                                                                                |
| CPP        | Cambodian People's Party                                                                                    |
| CRC        | Cambodian Red Cross                                                                                         |
| CRI        | Climate Risk Index                                                                                          |

|          |                                                                   |
|----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| CVD      | cardiovascular disease                                            |
| DCDM     | District Committee for Disaster Management                        |
| DELSA    | Disaster Emergency Logistics System for ASEAN                     |
| DHN      | Declaration of Humanitarian Need                                  |
| DHRW     | Department of Hydrology and River Works (of Cambodia's MOWRAM)    |
| DM       | disaster management                                               |
| DMRS     | Disaster Monitoring and Response System                           |
| DoD      | Department of Defense (of the U.S.)                               |
| DOE      | District Offices of Education, Youth, and Sport                   |
| DOM      | Department of Meteorology (of Cambodia's MOWRAM)                  |
| DRR      | Disaster Risk Reduction                                           |
| DWT      | deadweight tonnage                                                |
| EAC      | Electricity Authority of Cambodia                                 |
| ECC      | Emergency Coordination Center                                     |
| ECCC     | Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia                  |
| ECHO     | European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations         |
| EDC      | Electricité du Cambodge                                           |
| EOC      | Emergency Operations Centre                                       |
| EPRP     | Education Sector Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan         |
| ER4      | early recovery, risk reduction, and resilience                    |
| ERAT     | Emergency Response and Assessment Team (of ASEAN)                 |
| ESP      | Education Strategic Plans                                         |
| EU       | European Union                                                    |
| EWS      | early warning system                                              |
| FAO      | Food and Agriculture Organization (of the UN)                     |
| FDR      | Foreign Disaster Response                                         |
| GBV      | gender-based violence                                             |
| GDP      | Gross Domestic Product                                            |
| GHG      | greenhouse gas                                                    |
| GNI p.c. | gross national income per capital                                 |
| GSSD     | General Secretariat of the NCSD                                   |
| HADR     | humanitarian assistance and disaster relief                       |
| HCT      | Humanitarian Country Teams                                        |
| HF       | high frequency                                                    |
| HFO      | heavy fuel oil                                                    |
| HIV/AIDS | human immunodeficiency virus / acquired immunodeficiency syndrome |
| HRF      | Humanitarian Response Forum                                       |
| HSP      | Strategic Health Plan                                             |
| IASC     | Inter-Agency Standing Committee                                   |
| ICRC     | International Committee of the Red Cross                          |

|                    |                                                                  |
|--------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| IFAD               | International Fund for Agricultural Development                  |
| IFRC               | International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies |
| IHL                | International Humanitarian Law                                   |
| IHR                | International Health Regulations                                 |
| ILO                | International Labour Organization                                |
| INDOPACOM          | Indo-Pacific Command (of the U.S. DoD)                           |
| IOM                | International Organization for Migration                         |
| JAG                | Joint Action Group for Disaster Risk Reduction                   |
| JEE                | Joint External Evaluation                                        |
| km                 | kilometer(s)                                                     |
| ktoe               | thousand tons of oil equivalent                                  |
| kWh                | kilowatt-hour(s)                                                 |
| LDC                | Least Developed Country                                          |
| LFO                | light fuel oil                                                   |
| m / m <sup>2</sup> | meter(s) / square meter(s)                                       |
| MAFF               | Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries                  |
| MDG                | Millennium Development Goals                                     |
| MME                | Ministry of Mines and Energy                                     |
| MND                | Ministry of National Defense                                     |
| MoE                | Ministry of the Environment                                      |
| MoEYS              | Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sport                          |
| MOH                | Ministry of Health                                               |
| MoU                | Memorandum of Understanding                                      |
| MoWA               | Ministry of Women's Affairs                                      |
| MOWRAM             | Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology                      |
| MPWT               | Ministry of Public Works and Transport                           |
| MRC (-Mekong)      | Mekong River Commission                                          |
| MRC-USA            | Mississippi River Commission                                     |
| MRS                | Mekong River system                                              |
| MT                 | metric ton                                                       |
| MW                 | megawatt                                                         |
| NAMRU-2            | U.S. Naval Medical Research Unit-2                               |
| NAP                | National Adaptation Plan or National Action Plan                 |
| NAP – DRR          | National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction                 |
| NAPA               | National Adaptation Programme of Action                          |
| NASA               | National Aeronautics and Space Administration                    |
| NCD                | Non-communicable disease                                         |
| NCDD               | National Committee for Sub-National Democratic Development       |
| NCDM               | National Committee for Disaster Management                       |
| NCP                | National Contingency Plan                                        |

|        |                                                                                                                                            |
|--------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| NCSD   | National Council for Sustainable Development                                                                                               |
| NDC    | Nationally Determined Contribution                                                                                                         |
| NGO    | non-governmental organization                                                                                                              |
| NSDP   | National Sustainable Development Plan                                                                                                      |
| NSPPF  | National Social Protection Policy Framework                                                                                                |
| OCHA   | Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (of the UN)                                                                            |
| ODA    | Official Development Assistance                                                                                                            |
| OHCHR  | Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights                                                                            |
| OHW-NG | One Health Workforce-Next Generation                                                                                                       |
| PADEK  | Partnership for Development of Kampuchea                                                                                                   |
| PAS    | Sihanoukville Autonomous Port                                                                                                              |
| PCDM   | Provincial Committee for Disaster Management                                                                                               |
| PDC    | Pacific Disaster Center                                                                                                                    |
| PIN    | People in Need                                                                                                                             |
| PLA    | People Liberation Army (of China)                                                                                                          |
| POD    | Pacific Ocean Division (of USACE)                                                                                                          |
| POE    | Provincial Offices of Education, Youth, and Sport                                                                                          |
| PPAP   | Phnom Penh Autonomous Port                                                                                                                 |
| PPC    | Preparedness Partnership of Cambodia                                                                                                       |
| PPWSA  | Phnom Penh Water Supply Authority                                                                                                          |
| PRISM  | Platform for Real-time Impact and Situation Monitoring                                                                                     |
| RCAF   | Royal Cambodian Armed Forces                                                                                                               |
| REE    | Rural Electricity Enterprises                                                                                                              |
| RGC    | Royal Government of Cambodia                                                                                                               |
| RHCC   | Changi Regional HADR Coordination Centre                                                                                                   |
| ROAP   | Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (of UN OCHA)                                                                                      |
| RPA    | ASEAN Regional Plan of Action (for WPS)                                                                                                    |
| RSIV   | Rectangular Strategy Phase IV                                                                                                              |
| SASOP  | Standard Operating Procedure for Regional Standby Arrangements and Coordination of Joint Disaster Relief and Emergency Response Operations |
| SDG    | Sustainable Development Goals                                                                                                              |
| SEACAT | Southeast Asia Cooperation and Training                                                                                                    |
| SOP    | standard operating procedure                                                                                                               |
| STI    | sexually transmitted infection                                                                                                             |
| TB     | Tuberculosis                                                                                                                               |
| TEU    | twenty-foot equivalent unit                                                                                                                |
| TRC    | Telecommunication Regulator Cambodia                                                                                                       |
| U.S.   | United States                                                                                                                              |
| UN     | United Nations                                                                                                                             |
| UNCTAD | United Nations Conference on Trade and Development                                                                                         |

|             |                                                                        |
|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| UNDP        | United Nations Development Programme                                   |
| UNDRR       | United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction                      |
| UNDSS       | United Nations Department of Safety and Security                       |
| UNEP        | United Nations Environment Programme                                   |
| UNESCAP     | United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific |
| UNESCO      | United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization      |
| UNFCCC      | United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change                  |
| UNFPA       | United Nations Population Fund                                         |
| UNHCR       | United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees                          |
| UNICEF      | United Nations Children's Fund                                         |
| UNIDO       | United Nations Industrial Development Organization                     |
| UNODC       | United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime                               |
| UNOPS       | United Nations Office for Project Services                             |
| UNSCR       | United Nations Security Council Resolution                             |
| UNTAC       | United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia                      |
| USACE       | United States Army Corps of Engineers                                  |
| USAID       | United States Agency for International Development                     |
| USINDOPACOM | Indo-Pacific Command (of the U.S. DoD)                                 |
| VHF         | very high frequency                                                    |
| WASH        | water-sanitation-hygiene                                               |
| WFP         | World Food Program                                                     |
| WHO         | World Health Organization                                              |
| WPS         | Women, Peace, and Security                                             |
| WRI         | Women's Resilience Index                                               |

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