

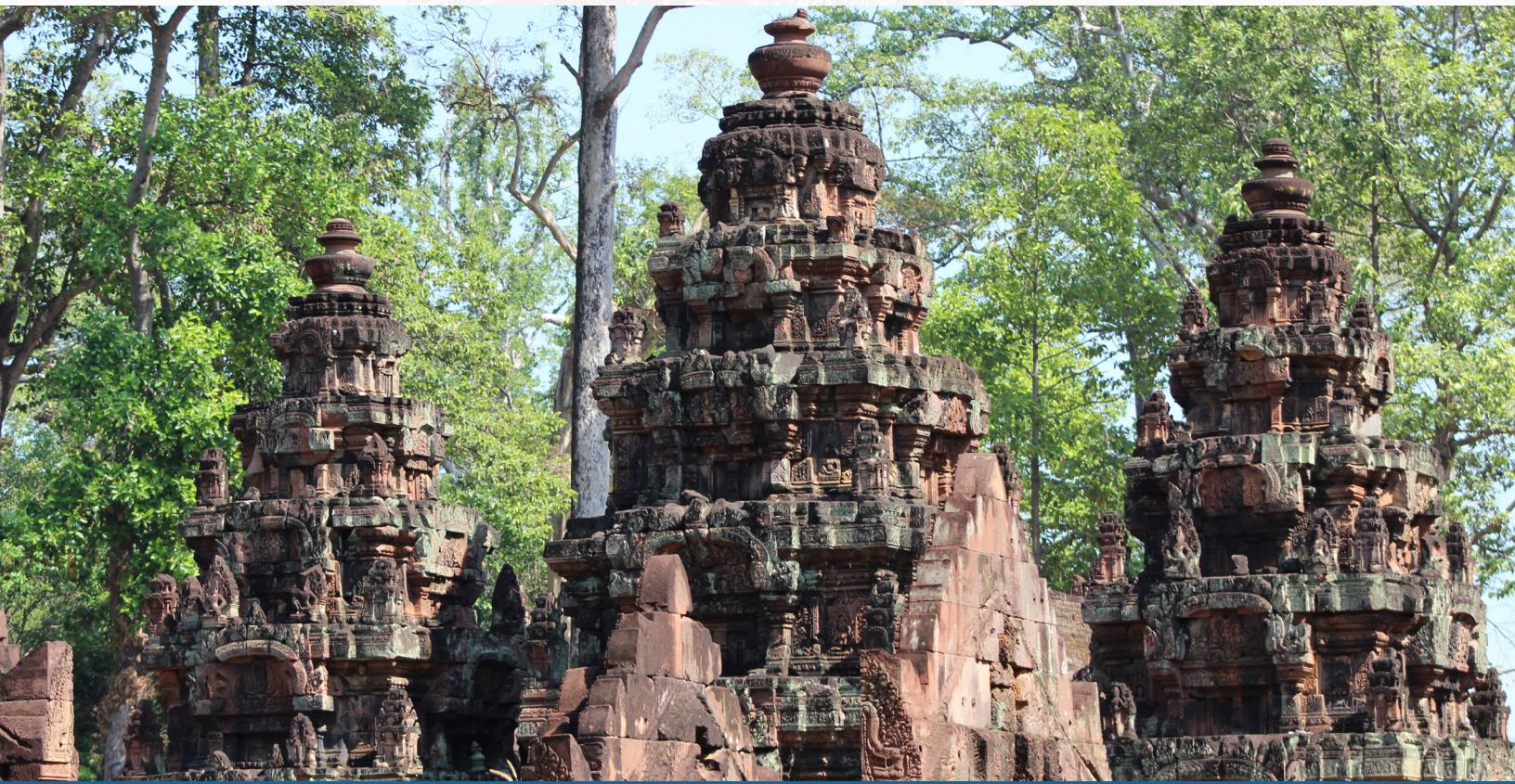


CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE

IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT & HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

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VIETNAM



CAMBODIA

Disaster Management Reference Handbook

December 2020



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Kelly Warfield, contributing photographer.

Front Cover

The photo depicts Preah Khan, one of the largest temples of Angkor, Siem Reap, Cambodia. It was a place for worship and education and the stones are inscribed and carved. Photo provided by Kelly Warfield.

Disclaimer

This handbook has been prepared in good faith based on resources available at the time of publication. Information was gathered from the public domain, from local and government sources, as well as from subject matter experts. Where possible, a link to the original electronic source is provided in the endnote (reference) section at the end of the document. While making every attempt to ensure the information is relevant and accurate, the Center for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance (CFE-DM) does not guarantee or warrant the accuracy, reliability, completeness, or currency of the information in this publication. Each handbook is a working document and will be updated periodically as new and significant information becomes available. We hope that you find these handbooks informative, relevant, reliable, and useful in understanding disaster management and response. We welcome and appreciate your feedback to improve this document and help fill any gaps to enhance its future utility. For feedback, comments, or to request a printed copy please email cfe.dmha.fct@pacom.mil. Please visit our website to download copies of this publication and other products (<https://www.cfe-dmha.org>). All parts of this publication may be reproduced, stored in retrieval systems, and transmitted by any means without the written permission of the publisher.

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Letter from the Director

In the last several years, the U.S.-Cambodia military relationship has changed in both frequency of engagement and focus of cooperation. A reduction in tempo parallels shifts in regional strategy on the parts of both the U.S. and Cambodia. There is currently a hiatus on what had been regular U.S. military engagement via naval port visits, humanitarian mine action, and joint exercises. In the stead of these exercises, the Idaho National Guard has maintained its partnership with the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces (RCAF) to train together through the Air National Guard's State Partnership Program. The partners have conducted subject matter exchanges with a focus on preparing RCAF for peacekeeping deployments and humanitarian response operations both at home and overseas.

Despite the fall-off in U.S.-Cambodia engagement focused on humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR), regional disasters and emergencies remain a challenge not only to Cambodia's people but also to U.S. interests in the greater Indo-Pacific region. Cambodia's government and the RCAF continue to train on HADR, although with non-U.S. entities. Of note, RCAF has recently participated in bilateral HADR exercises with Vietnam and China. This participation underscores that RCAF retains a government-mandated role in HADR operations and that Phnom Penh expects regional and bilateral military cooperation to be important in any future response.

Meanwhile, the U.S. armed forces combatant and component commands in the Indo-Pacific region continue to conduct Pacific Angel, Pacific Partnership, and other exercises with multiple regional states so that the region's militaries are prepared to work together in the event of a disaster or humanitarian crisis. Cambodia's participation in multi-national exercises may resume, but the U.S. and Cambodia may also find themselves working closely on HADR regardless of rehearsal, as many disasters pay no respect to borders as the COVID-19 pandemic has illustrated. Thus, it remains important that the U.S. military retain an understanding of the conditions in Cambodia.

This Cambodia Disaster Management Reference Handbook provides the reader with an operational understanding of Cambodia's disaster management response, with detailed information on hazards, government structure, regional and international assistance, laws and guidelines, and other areas vital to a comprehensive disaster management knowledge base.



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

The Joint Force, allies, and partners are fully prepared to conduct and facilitate foreign humanitarian assistance.

Mission

CFE-DM builds crisis response capacity in U.S. 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.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Cambodia experiences floods, regular drought, and damaging storms due to its geographic and climate conditions.¹ Generally, flooding occurs for more than three months per year between July and December², and the country experiences annual flooding due to it predominantly being a low-lying country with large flood plains along the Mekong River.³ Many localized and national disasters are influenced by the Mekong River which has historically been productive due to its seasonal variations, but which has, in recent years, been heavily dammed.⁴ The effects of damming have restricted the flow of water to countries downstream. These countries rely on the water for agriculture, fisheries, and human water consumption. The damming has inundated communities and shocked the downstream ecology,⁵ and caused a decline in agriculture productivity.⁶

Cambodia is exposed to localized drought in the plains which place rural populations and agriculture-based livelihoods at significant risk. Due to the frequent occurrence of droughts and large-scale flooding, Cambodia is facing immense challenges to protect the country from the impacts of disasters.⁷

In addition to floods, drought, and damaging storms, as previously mentioned, the National Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2019-2020⁸ recognizes hydro-meteorological hazards, disease outbreaks, fires, and technological hazards as potential triggers of disasters.⁹ This has been exacerbated by the climate change impacts.¹⁰ People in Cambodia are increasingly exposed to climatic hazards which pose a threat to livelihoods, healthcare and education. Potential impacts of climate change have significant consequences to food security as almost 90% of the population are engaged in agricultural activities, and approximately 80% rely on subsistence crops. The population is also dependent on the fishing industry which is a major source of income and an integral part of

the domestic food security. Rising temperatures and change in sea level and varying hydrological cycles are expected to reduce the productivity of agriculture, fisheries, and labor in Cambodia.

Disaster risk management in Cambodia falls under the National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM), the lead authority of the Royal Government of Cambodia. The main responsibility of NCDM is to facilitate and support the coordination of its member agencies and other stakeholders in Disaster Risk Management in accordance with the laws on Disaster Management. A Law on Disaster Management, which formalized the role of NDMC as the lead administrator and coordinator of disaster activities, was passed in 2015.¹¹

In the event of a disaster in Cambodia needing international assistance, the 2015 Disaster Management Law outlines that, upon the request of NCDM, the government would appeal to the international community for assistance. The NCDM leads coordination and implementation of international assistance in terms of budget, resources, and materials, as pertains to implementation of bilateral, multilateral, regional and international agreements on disaster management and joint multi-lateral response during the emergency period. Foreign disaster responders are to provide assistance through the NCDM.¹²

During a disaster, the NCDM assembles at the National Emergency Coordination Centre for coordination activities.¹³ At the national level, the NCDM consists of the Secretariat and five technical departments.¹⁴ At the sub-national level, the structure is comprised of Municipal Committees for Disaster Management, Provincial Committees for Disaster Management, District Committees for Disaster Management, Commune Committees for Disaster Management¹⁵ and Village Disaster Management Groups.¹⁶

COUNTRY OVERVIEW

History

Cambodia's history is marked by periods of both peace and devastation. Hinduism and the temples the religion inspired reached their apex in the 12th century CE. In the 13th century, Cambodians converted to Theravada Buddhism, the variant practiced by the Khmer today and over the next 200 years, the Khmer Empire diminished as tributary states (now Thailand) invaded and/or declared their independence. For 400 years after the Empire fell in 1431, Cambodia was a small Buddhist kingdom dependent on the goodwill of Thailand and Vietnam, the country's neighbors¹⁷ (as seen in Figure 1)¹⁸. In the mid-19th century, conflict between these kingdoms caused the Cambodian king to ask France to provide protection for his kingdom and Cambodia became a French colony.¹⁹

During the 20th century the country experienced war, occupation by the Japanese, postwar independence, civil war and political instability.²⁰ Landmines and unexploded ordnance (UXO) continue to stall Cambodia's recovery. An estimated 4 to 6 million landmines

and other munitions were left from the conflicts of the 20th century.²¹

In addition to recovery due to UXO, Cambodia is also recovering from the reign of the Khmer Rouge. The Khmer Rouge, the Cambodian Communist forces, seized the nation's capital, Phnom Penh, in April 1975. Units of Cambodia's Communist insurgents had been actively fighting the Western-backed government of Marshal Lon Nol for nearly five years, and with their victory, they forced Phnom Penh's entire population (3 million) to abandon the city.²² The Khmer Rouge ruled from 1975 to 1979²³ during which time an estimated 1.7 to 2.2 million (varying sources) Cambodians perished. Many were executed as enemies of the regime, but many others died from starvation, disease, or overwork. Those lost accounted for roughly 20% of the population.²⁴

In 1979, the Vietnamese Army invaded Cambodia and, after a series of violent battles on the border between Vietnam and Cambodia, removed the Khmer Rouge and their leader, Pol Pot from power. Vietnam retained control with a military presence for most of the 1980s over the objections of the United States (U.S.).²⁵ Political pressure on Vietnam mounted in the late 1980s as the U.S. led an economic boycott of Cambodia. Eventually, perestroika led to the Soviet Union to reduce aid to Vietnam. Vietnam finally decided to withdraw, and it completed the withdrawal of its forces from Cambodia in 1989. In the 1990s, Cambodia regained political autonomy, reestablished a constitutional government, and instituted free elections.²⁶

The Paris Peace Agreements, formally titled Comprehensive Cambodian Peace Agreements, were signed in October 1991, and marked the official end of the Cambodian–Vietnamese War. The agreements were intended to end the war and set the conditions for a democratic election to establish a Constituent Assembly and later a legitimate government. A new constitution was announced in September 1993, four months



Figure 1: Map of Cambodia

after the UN-supervised election took place. The Khmer Rouge continued to wage a low-level insurgency against the government during the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) and after the UN forces left the country in November 1993. The 1993 constitution established Cambodia as a constitutional monarchy. Following political crises in 1997 and 1998, which led to the formation of a coalition government, the constitution was modified to establish a Senate. Almost all remaining Khmer Rouge leaders surrendered to government forces in late December 1998.²⁷

Culture and Demographics

Cambodia has been influenced throughout its history from India and China. During the first centuries CE, Chinese and Indian pilgrims and traders stopped along the coasts of present-day Cambodia and Vietnam and exchanged silks and metals for spices, wood, ivory, and gold. Architectural remains have survived from various periods from the 7th and 9th centuries and display a mixture of Indian and local influence. Numerous temples, statues, stone bridges and inscriptions testify to various rulers of the country.²⁸

The Khmer (Cambodian) Empire was marked by large temple complexes dedicated to the Buddha or to Hindu gods; these include Angkor Wat, and the Bayon complex at the imperial capital of Angkor Thom.²⁹ Photo 1 depicts the Angkor Wat temple complex at Siem Reap in Cambodia.³⁰ This complex was built in the 12th century during the reign of King Suryavarman II (113-c.1150). There are more than 1000 buildings that make up this religious complex covering over 400 acres.³¹

Photo 2 depicts the Bayon Temple which is a four-sided tower carved with faces.³² The Bayon is the Cambodian Buddhist pyramid temple constructed c.1200 during the reign of Jayavarman VII (1181-c.1220) who went against the Khmer tradition and adopted Mahayana Buddhism. Khmer kings would traditionally build themselves a series of temples in Angkor to serve as shrines containing images of themselves, gods, their families, and their ancestors. There are 54 towers at the Bayon site, all with carved visages or images. The bas-reliefs visages depict Jayavarman's military victories and scenes of ordinary life of 13th-century Cambodians at work, rest, and play.³³

Music is an important tradition in Cambodian culture. Traditional music includes various combinations of wooden flutes and reed instruments, drums, bowed and plucked lutes,



Photo source: Kelly Warfield

Photo 1: Angkor Wat Temple Complex in Cambodia

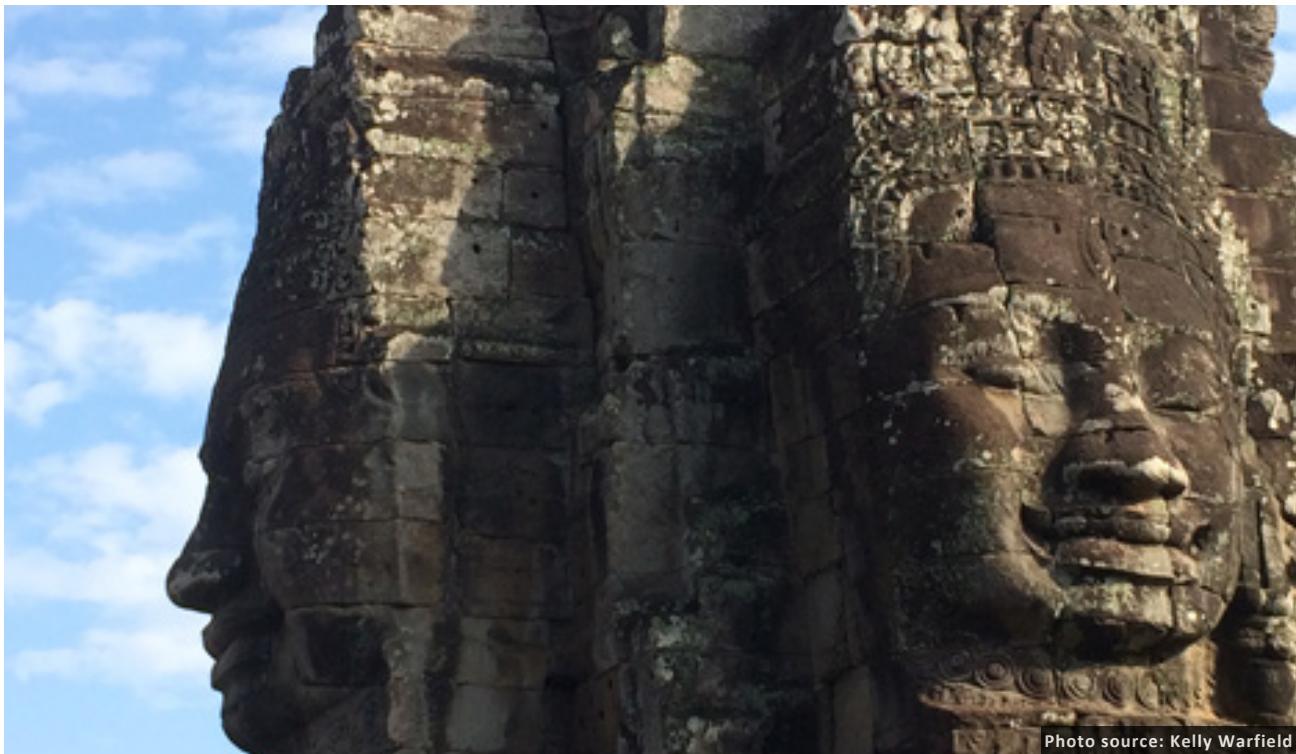


Photo source: Kelly Warfield

Photo 2: Bayon Temple, Cambodia

struck zithers, xylophones, metallophones, and kong vong gong circles. Music is also included in many celebrations and festivals that take place throughout the year at Buddhist temples. Cambodians celebrate festivals and holidays such as January 7 (victory over Pol Pot), Bonn Chaul Chhnam (Khmer New Year; mid-April), Paris Peace Agreement Day (October 23), and Bonn Om Touk (Water and Moon Festival; early November).³⁴

Cambodian cuisine and diets are largely based on rice and fish. Hot peppers, mint, lemongrass, ginger, prahoc (a spiced fish paste), and red curry paste are used as garnishes. Mangoes, papayas, bananas, durians, and other locally grown fruits are also used. A popular dish is ka tieu, a soup usually made with pork and rice noodles.³⁵

Ethnic Makeup

Most people in Cambodia refer to their culture and ethnicity as Khmer.³⁶ The ethnic makeup by population is Khmer (97.6%), Cham (1.2%), and Chinese (0.1%).³⁷ The demographics of the country were influenced by the civil war and later genocide, as approximately 50% of the

population is under 22 years old.³⁸

Key Population Centers

The Cambodian population is 16.7 million (2019).³⁹ The country's population grew 1.41% from 2019 to 2020. Cambodia has a population density of 212 people per square mile. Approximately 20% of the population lives in urban areas of which there are few. The largest city is the capital, Phnom Penh, with a population of 1.5 million.⁴⁰

In Cambodia, children under age 15 make up nearly one-third of the population. Approximately three-fifths of the population is under 30. This age distribution is a result of the loss of lives under the Khmer Rouge regime.⁴¹

Language

Khmer is the official language of Cambodia. Approximately 97% of the population speak it as a first and primary language; other languages are used by approximately 3% of the population.⁴² The Khmer Loeu are an indigenous ethnic minority who live in remote mountain areas, and speak the Loeu dialect.⁴³

Religion

Cambodia's official religion is Buddhism. An estimated 95% of the population practices Theravada Buddhism. There are approximately 4,400 monastery temples in the country.⁴⁴ The Cham minority is Muslim, generally Sunni. Thousands of Cambodians, particularly urban Khmer, have converted to Evangelical Protestantism, particularly urban Khmer. Khmer Loeu groups generally follow local religions, while ethnic Vietnamese and Chinese follow Mahayana Buddhism and Daoism. Many Vietnamese are members of the Roman Catholic Church or part of Vietnamese religious movements called Cao Dai.⁴⁵

All religious practices were forbidden during the Khmer Rouge reign (1975 to 1979). The pro-Vietnamese communist regime encouraged Buddhism in a limited way in the 1980s. It was not until 1993 that Theravada Buddhism was restored as Cambodia's state religion.⁴⁶

Vulnerable Groups

Women and girls

There are a number of obstacles to women's economic empowerment in Cambodia. They include the amount of time and responsibility for unpaid domestic and care work, low levels of literacy and education, and a lack of access to resources necessary for economic empowerment. Although rates are improving, women have low literacy and education levels which, along with gender gaps, constrain women's economic empowerment. Unpaid household chores are also a barrier preventing some girls from attending school. With respect to land title and ownership, women are not equally included in the land registration process. The current land registration system does not equitably settle land ownership, rather it leads to increased evictions and conflicts that, in turn result in gender biases which negatively affect women's access to land.⁴⁷

The coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic has a distinct gendered impact that requires gender-responsive crisis management in Cambodia as well as other countries. Women's

and girls' roles in their homes, communities, and the workforce place them at increased risk of exposure. These roles also place women, girls and those from vulnerable and disadvantaged groups (including gender and sexual minorities, healthcare workers, migrant workers, sex workers, ethnic minorities, landless women, women and girls with disabilities, informal sector workers and others) at an increased risk of Gender Based Violence (GBV) during this pandemic.⁴⁸

Restrictions on movement compromise women's ability to distance themselves from violent husbands or other family members. Women and girls may face escalating risks of intimate partner and domestic violence due to heightened tensions in the household from food and economic insecurity, fears about the virus, domestic confinement, women's increased burden of unpaid care work, and reduced access to GBV response services.⁴⁹

Children

Child nutrition outcomes have steadily improved since the 1990s, yet levels of stunting and wasting among children under five remain high, with large disparities for socioeconomically and geographically marginalized populations.⁵⁰ Approximately 1 in 3 children under the age of 5 suffers from stunting and only 36% of children between 3 and 5 years old are enrolled in early education.⁵¹

Key drivers of undernutrition in Cambodia include: poor maternal, infant, and young child nutrition behaviors; low access and affordability of nutritious diets; low availability and quality of nutrition services; low access to and quality of water supply and sanitation; and varied access to childcare resources.⁵² Because children do not have access to clean water, toilets or hand-washing facilities in their communities and schools in Cambodia, they continue to be stunted and die. There is very limited understanding of the importance of proper sanitation and hygiene in rural areas.⁵³

Many children live in poverty and others are vulnerable to falling into poverty. There are

also more than 400 orphanages or residential centers that house more than 1600 children in Cambodia. Many children are not in fact orphans or up for adoption, but rather their families believe they will have better access to food, education, and medical care; this is not always the case.⁵⁴ Some families who are too poor to look after their children send them to orphanages in the hope they will be taken care of.⁵⁵

Poor

Approximately 35% of Cambodians live in poverty, with the poverty rates highest in rural areas of the country.⁵⁶ In addition, 4.5 million people are vulnerable to falling into poverty when exposed to economic and other external shocks.⁵⁷ The latest statistical data (2018) on poverty in Cambodia reveals that 12.9% of the population lives below the national poverty line.⁵⁸

Despite improvements in water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) targets, Cambodia has the highest rate of open defecation in the region, with eight in ten of the poorest rural Cambodians defecating out in fields, in open bodies of water, or other open spaces. Human waste near waterways and houses spreads diseases quickly and puts people at risk.⁵⁹

Disabled Persons

While natural hazards can pose threats to the life, health, and well-being of all population groups, some groups such as those with disabilities are disproportionately impacted by their immediate and long-term effects.⁶⁰ This also applies to disaster recovery because many persons with disabilities do not have the same access to resources, social networks, support systems, and communities.⁶¹ As a post-conflict country, Cambodia is subject to a number of risk factors which can lead to a high prevalence of disability. Landmine victims are a vulnerable population as they often lack access to education, training, employment, and physical and mental services.⁶²

Cambodia has the highest ratio of amputees per capita in the world as a result of massive landmine and explosive remnants of war (ERW) contamination. UXO and cluster munitions are

still being found throughout Cambodia. This is a result of several actions during the 1960s and 1970s. After driving the Khmer Rouge into Thailand, the Vietnamese military forced civilians to create a defensive minefield along the Thailand-Cambodian border. As battlefronts shifted in subsequent years, the new state, Khmer Rouge remnants and monarchist opposition forces laid more landmines. To combat these landmines, a large network of government agencies and development partners are involved in the demining process.⁶³

Economics

Cambodia has developed rapidly and reached the ranks of lower-middle income countries as a result of swift moves away from reliance on agriculture in recent decades. Between 1998 and 2018, the country had an average growth rate of 8%, placing it among the fastest growing economies in the world. Cambodia reached lower middle-income status in 2015,⁶⁴ and it seeks to attain upper middle-income status by 2030 with the support of a growing tourism sector, construction, and garment exports.⁶⁵

Approximately 27% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is comprised of agricultural activities, and the fishing industry contributes by 12%. These two industries are not only major sources of income but are integral parts of domestic food security. However, Cambodia is still very vulnerable to external shocks such as disasters and climate change which might destabilize livelihoods and incomes of people working outside the social protection system and infrastructure. For example, rice production could decline by 10% for every 1° Celsius temperature rise. Similarly, damage to the fishing industry, tourism, and coffee and rubber production might result from rising temperatures. There are approximately 6 million Cambodians employed in the fishing sector nationwide and, therefore, any changes in agricultural productivity or the environment would endanger economic development and livelihoods. During the 2016 drought, fish exports dropped by 21% across Southeast Asia.

Fish stocks have not returned to sustainable levels and will not for some time as it takes time to recover after such severe drought conditions as seen in Figure 2. The figure shows that it is projected that it will take from 2020 to 2050 for Cambodia to recover from the 2016 drought and be able to build back sustainable numbers.⁶⁶

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted Cambodia's economy in 2020 via a sharp deceleration in most of the country's main engines of growth: tourism, manufacturing exports, and construction. These main areas combined account for more than 70% of the country's growth and almost 40% of paid employment. The COVID-19 outbreak and slow recovery in global economic activity, alongside prolonged financial market turmoil, poses risks to Cambodia's growth outlook as the economy in 2020 is projected to register growth of -2%.⁶⁷

In addition to the COVID-19 pandemic, the partial withdrawal of Cambodia's preferential market access to the European Union will weigh on Cambodia's near-term economic growth outlook. Due to a lack of substantial

improvements in Cambodia's human rights record, the European Commission recommended the partial revocation of Cambodia's "Everything but Arms" (EBA) trade privileges in February 2020, EBA preferential trade scheme that permits duty- and quota-free exports of all products, except arms and armaments, and affected 20% Cambodia's exports. The withdrawal of access is expected to affect travel goods, sugar exports, and the footwear and garment industries.⁶⁸

Government

Cambodia gained independence in 1953.⁶⁹ The 1993 constitution established Cambodia as a constitutional monarchy⁷⁰, and subsequently instituted free elections.⁷¹ The constitution was amended in March 1999 to establish the Senate, a new legislative body. The Prime Minister is the head of the government.⁷² The Legislative Branch of Government consists of a 62 seat Senate and a 125 seat National Assembly. The Judicial Branch includes a Supreme Council and a Constitutional Court. Subordinate courts include the appellate

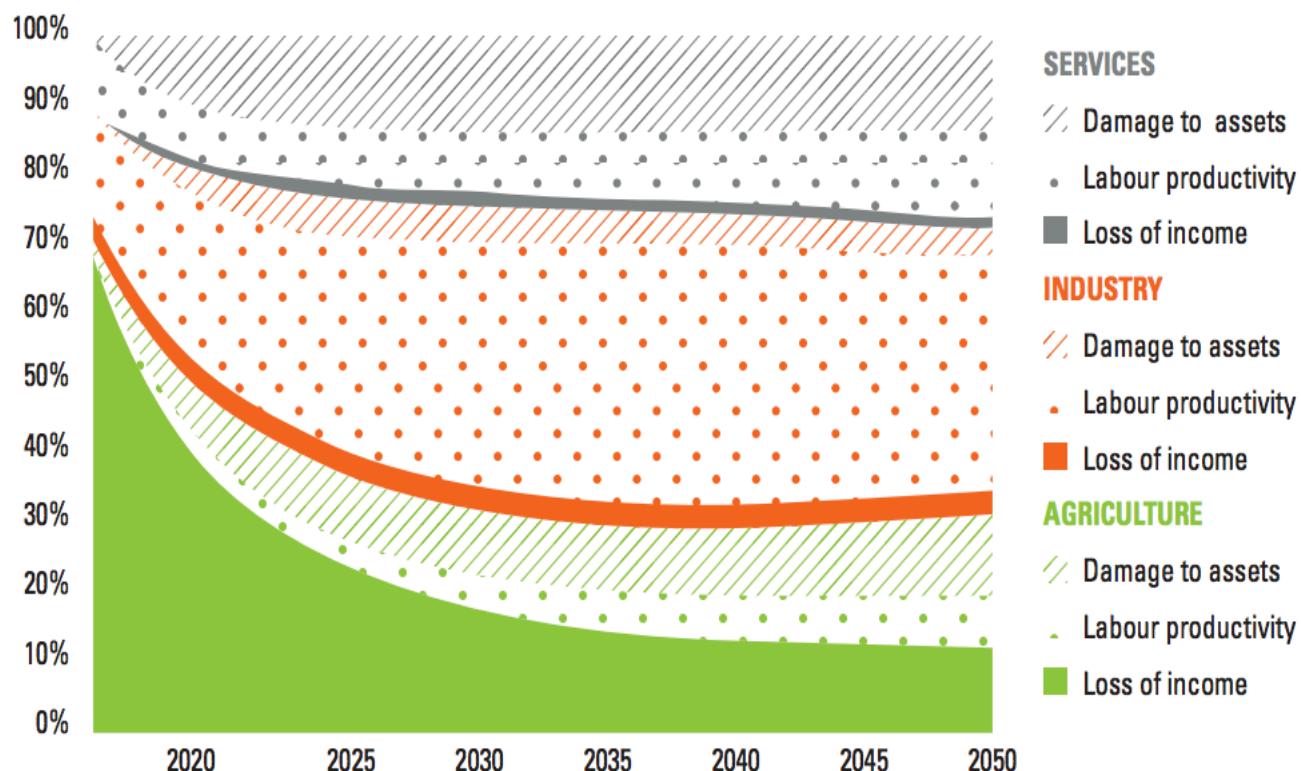


Figure 2: Southeast Asia Fish Exports Dropped after 2016 Drought

court, provincial and municipal courts, and a military court.⁷³

The Executive Branch includes both the Monarch and the Prime Minister/Council of Ministers. The Monarch is chosen by the 9-member Royal Council of the Throne from eligible males of royal descent. The Monarch's role is primarily ceremonial.⁷⁴ A prime minister from the majority party is named by the Chairman of the National Assembly following legislative elections.⁷⁵ The Cabinet of Cambodia, officially known as the Council of Ministers is the executive body led by the Prime Minister, assisted by Deputy Prime Ministers, Senior Ministers, and Secretaries of State. Cabinet members are nominated by the Prime Minister and appointed by the Monarch.⁷⁶

There have been two military coups in Cambodia since independence: 1970 and 1997.⁷⁷ These events, along with other factors, have fueled moves toward a single-party state. In November 2017, the opposition National Rescue Party (CNRP) was forced to dissolve. In July 2018, Prime Minister Hun Sen and his Cambodian People's Party (CPP) won 123 of 125 seats in the general election; however, the poll was strongly criticized by Australia, Canada, the European Union, and the U.S. There is government resistance to independent media and political opposition organizations.⁷⁸

The government includes more than 20 different ministries covering various areas including national defense, culture, art, etc. at the national level. At the sub-national level, administration is at provincial and district levels, and some ministries have line agencies at the sub-national level.⁷⁹

Environment Geography

Cambodia's terrain is mostly low, flat plains with mountainous areas in the north and southwest. The country's natural resources

include oil and gas with hydropower potential, timber, gemstones, iron ore, manganese, phosphates, and arable land.⁸⁰

Illegal logging activities and mining for gems in the western region along the border with Thailand have led to destroyed mangrove swamps and caused habitat loss which threatens national fisheries. Illegal and overfishing have also decreased fish stocks. The illegal logging has led to soil erosion and affected the coastal ecosystems by adding sediment to the water which has been washed loose from deforested areas inland.⁸¹

Borders

Cambodia shares borders with Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam. The country's coastline runs along the Gulf of Thailand and is divided in two by the Mekong River. Cambodia had a border dispute with Thailand that ran from June 2008 until December 2011. The dispute began when Thai soldiers encroached on the Keo Sikha Kiri Svra region. The conflict resulted in approximately 40 deaths but was later settled at the International Court of Justice which ruled in favor of Cambodia and forced Thailand to withdraw. Cambodia and Vietnam had several border disputes and, in 2005, the two countries signed a treaty to mark their borders. Cambodia had not agreed with the initial 1985 treaty, while Vietnam had made claims to Cambodian territory.⁸²

Climate

Cambodia's climate is tropical with two seasons: a dry monsoon season from November to April, and the wet season (southwest monsoon) from May to November. The heaviest rains fall from September to October⁸³ and bring 80% of the annual rainfall. During July and August, there is usually a dry spell, a break in the monsoon, that lasts two to three weeks and during which droughts may occur depending on the region.⁸⁴ The country has a temperature range from 21 to 35 °C (69.8 to 95.0 °F).⁸⁵

DISASTER OVERVIEW

Climate Change

Cambodia is vulnerable to disasters caused by climate change. Floods, droughts, and typhoons are increasing in frequency and cause serious damage.⁸⁶ Climate change has impacts on Cambodia's population, infrastructure, economy, and food security. Approximately 90% of the population engages in agricultural activities, with approximately 80% of the population relying on subsistence crops.⁸⁷ When routine, large-scale climatic events like El Niño-La Niña cycles are exacerbated by sea temperature and level rises, and shifting weather patterns, subsistence-reliant communities are badly affected. For example, the 2015 El Niño drove a two-year drought that saw more than 2.5 million Cambodians severely impacted by water shortages, crop failures and livestock die-offs.⁸⁸ Meanwhile, the same long-range changes can cause more frequent and worse Mekong River floods that damage infrastructure and inflict human and animal casualties.⁸⁹ The apparent shift of climatic phenomena toward the extremes requires adaptation that may be beyond the reach of subsistence farmers who cannot unilaterally change seeds/seedlings, fertilizers, water sources or other technical inputs. Thus, Cambodia's entire food system faces long-range disruption from the changing climate.

Hazards

Due to its geographic and climate conditions, Cambodia experiences floods, regular drought, and damaging storms. Other than storms, many localized and national disasters are influenced by the Mekong River which has historically been productive due to its seasonal variations, but which has, in recent years, been heavily dammed. As of June 2020, 13 dams were operational on the River (mostly in the upper reaches, in China), and a further 9 are proposed, mostly in Lao PDR or on the Lao-Thai border stretch of the Lower Mekong.⁹⁰ Upstream, dry-season snow melt

accounts for about one-quarter of the River's entire flow volume, and tributaries between the Chinese border and the Cambodian border account for all but about 10% of the total flow volume.⁹¹

The effects of damming on the upper reaches of the River are seen throughout downstream countries in three key ways. First, upstream dams restrict the flow of water upon which downstream countries rely for agriculture, fisheries, and human water consumption. Second, unexpected releases of water and dam failures inundate downstream communities and shock the downstream ecology.⁹² Finally, the loss of seasonal flooding throughout the Basin means alluvial soils upon which regional agriculture relies are not replenished, and productivity declines.⁹³ While some of events may be avoided by better communications among Mekong River Basin countries, disruption to the natural rhythms of the River overall will have long-term impact.

Flooding

Flooding is a major hazard that threatens the country and has caused enormous deaths and destruction. Water levels in the Mekong River that enters the country from Laos and Great Tonlé Sap Lake in central Cambodia impact the extent of the flooding. Nearly 75% of the country's land is part of Tonlé Sap Lake's floodplain, with the lower Mekong River and Bassac River plain forming central wetlands.⁹⁴ Flooding obstructs access to all types of services including healthcare and education.⁹⁵

Localized flooding is common each year in the wet season. The traditional flood season all along the Mekong River runs from June through November, and the flow volumes during this period account for 80-90% of the total annual flow.⁹⁶ These flood pulses are generally predictable. Not only can damage and loss from them be mitigated by communication and cooperation among Mekong Basin countries, but

these annual flood pulses are critical for food security.

A different type of flooding is becoming more common as dams upstream fail or release water with no warning. For example, in July 2018, construction on the Xe Pian-Xe Namnoy dam in Lao PDR was progressing when a component dam failed, unexpectedly releasing much of the reservoir behind it. The water rushed into the Vang Ngao River and ended up inundating villages in Cambodia.⁹⁷ For an accounting of the humanitarian impact, see page 19: July 2018 – Flooding.

Drought

Drought is a slower onset natural condition that begins unnoticed and develops cumulatively, and its impacts may not be immediately observable. Drought is a dryness in atmospheric conditions and a shortage of water which can cause moisture deficit with adverse effects on vegetation, animals, and people over a large area.

Despite the lower speed of drought compared to flooding, drought does have a serious effect on life and property. The impacts of drought can differ from community to community depending on vulnerability, and the cumulative effects of frequent, severe, and prolonged drought can be devastating. For instance, successive years of crop loss not only drive livelihoods disruption, but the knock-on impacts also include disease, chronic malnutrition, childhood development challenges, loss of life, and a shift in migration patterns that send drought-affected people into cities or across border in search of work, food, or other support.⁹⁸

In Cambodia, drought has severe impacts on the rural populations who rely on subsistence agriculture, as lack of rainfall and the strangling of the Mekong River by upstream damming correlate with decreased water availability and, thus, lower production or yield. Large-scale artificial irrigation is not yet feasible in the country. Cambodia experienced its worst drought in 50 years in 2015; severely affecting 2.5 million people across 25 provinces.⁹⁹ While the 2015-2016 drought appeared linked primarily to a failure of the traditional rainy season, another

severe drought in 2019 was more explicitly linked to upstream damming of the Mekong. That year, while upstream areas in China enjoyed high rainfall and snow melt, downstream areas experienced much below average water flow through their portions of the River. In conjunction with the El Niño of 2019 that kept rainfall volumes low in downstream countries, 30 years of reduced River flows as dams have been built mean that downstream countries have been experiencing decades of conditions that promote drought.¹⁰⁰

Storms and Lightning

Lightning strikes pose a serious risk to Cambodians, livestock, and property. The estimated average annual death rate from lightning strike is 7.8 deaths per 1 million people, giving Cambodia one of the highest lightning death rates in the world.¹⁰¹

History of Natural Disasters

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

October 2020 - Flooding

Beginning on 1 October 2020, Cambodia experienced heavy rainfall across much of the country. As of 21 October, approximately 156,000 households in 14 provinces reported being affected by flash floods. Flood inundation affected houses, infrastructure (roads, schools, health centers) and agricultural land. Some of the worst affected areas include the four provinces of Pursat, Battambang, Banteay Meanchey, and Pailin.

The National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM) provided 40 boats and 200 life jackets to the four worst-affected provinces and had 720 search and rescue teams trained and prepared to deploy at the request of provincial administrators. The Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) also released 46,491 boxes of drinking water to NCDM to distribute to affected households in these

four provinces. The Green Trade Company dispatched 975mt of RGC rice reserves to Banteay Meanchey and Oddar Meanchey provinces. The Humanitarian Response Forum (HRF) Secretariat organized sector lead and co-lead agencies and sector members to discuss flood situation and sectoral response plans. From 19-21 October, NCDM and humanitarian partners conducted a joint rapid assessment in Pursat, Battambang, Banteay Meanchey, Pailin, Phnom Penh and Kandal.¹⁰² The flood impact by province is shown in Table 1.¹⁰³

September 2019-Flooding

In early September 2019, heavy rainfall triggered flooding along the Mekong River Basin and around the Tonlé Sap Lake. According to Cambodia's Provincial Committees for Disaster Management (PCDMs), 238 communes in 62 districts in 10 provinces were affected. Flash floods developed in areas surrounding Tonlé Sap Lake. Approximately 94,000 households were affected, 11,500 households were displaced, and 16 people died. Emergency assistance was distributed in Tbong Khmom, Kampong Cham, Kratie, and Stung Treng. According to PCDM and HEF sector lead agencies, approximately

15,000 flood-affected households received emergency assistance from Government authorities, the Cambodian Red Cross, and nongovernmental organizations. In addition, approximately 13,800 households received food packages, 1,400 households received WASH kits, and 340 households received a plastic sheet for shelter. The Humanitarian Response Forum (HRF) Co-chairs, sector leads, and Co-lead agencies for the flood response are represented in Table 2.¹⁰⁴

HRF CO-CHAIRS, SECTORLEADS AND CO-LEADS

HRF Co-chairs	World Food Programme, Dan Church Aid
Sector	Lead and Co-lead agencies
Food Security	World Food Programme, Dan Church Aid
WASH	UNICEF, World Vision
Shelter	International Organization for Migration, People in Need
Health	World Health Organization
Education	UNICEF, Save the Children
Protection	UNICEF, Save the Children, World Vision

Table 2: Aid and Relief Sectors in Cambodia

Province	Households affected	Households displaced	Deaths	Houses Affected	Health Centers affected	Schools affected	Length of road affected (Meter)	Agricultural land affected (hectare)	Report date by PCDM
Battambang	66,088	4,592	-	-	66,067	316	1,188,703	164,116	21-Oct
Banteay Meanchey	29,225	4,567	18	29,225	9	186	75,575	75,620	21-Oct
Pursat	28,349	1,934	6	24,531	3	26	256,220	46,114	21-Oct
Kampong Thom	7,772	-	5	7,772	2	42	31,551	14,892	21-Oct
Phnom Penh	5,587	1,593	-	4,965	-	-	10,000	1,350	21-Oct
Kandal	4,532	-	-	4,099	4	9	20,531	7,014	21-Oct
Svay Rieng	3,150	36	-	97	1	1	15,756	2,108	21-Oct
Kampong Speu	2,421	212	-	1,697	-	1	16,229	3,196	21-Oct
Pailin	1,310	253	1	1,227	-	2	55,670	4,784	21-Oct
Stung Treng	1,219	57	-	861	1	2	50,050	357	21-Oct
Takeo	1,948	-	-	1,948	-	3	102,221	1,868	21-Oct
Siem Reap	3,680	29	1	2,280	2	15	36,436	1,302	21-Oct
Preah Vihear	435	41	-	416	-	-	3,000	3,963	21-Oct
Oddar Meanchey	421	4	-	-	1	14	4,650	1,544	21-Oct
Total	156,137	13,318	31	145,185	23	617	1,866,592	328,228	156,137

Table 1: Flood Impact to Cambodia Provinces, October 2020

July 2018-Flooding

In July 2018 after heavy storms, 25,000 people in northern parts of Cambodia were evacuated and approximately 26 people died¹⁰⁵ due to flooding following the breach of the Xe Pian-Xe Namnoy dam in Lao PDR. Villages along the Sekong River in Cambodia are downstream from the Xe Pian-Xe Namnoy river system and fell victim to the flood waters caused by the dam collapse.

Flood waters rose up to 11.5 meters, a level which caused displacement of more than 6,000 people across the river basin in the Atteapeu area.¹⁰⁶ The waters washed away houses and villagers; many people were unable to move to the higher ground.¹⁰⁷

Laos and Cambodia do not have a shared warning system for flood or system for disaster management, and, as a result, many Cambodian villages were not notified of the incoming flood waters.¹⁰⁸

May 2018-Lightning and Storms

According to the National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM) lightning caused over 90 casualties in May 2018, including more than 50 human deaths and some 50 cattle, and destroyed more than 2,000 homes.¹⁰⁹

2016-Lightning and Storms

Storms destroyed 1,997 homes and damaged the roofs of 8,147 others in 2016. There were 21 deaths and 193 injuries. During the same year, lightning strikes killed 108 people, injured 105 more, damaged 9 homes, and killed 40 cattle.¹¹⁰

2015-2016 Drought

The effects of El Niño in 2015-2016 included less rainfall, warmer weather, and delayed or shortened monsoon rains in Cambodia. The NCDM estimated that at least 50% of districts were affected by the drought. During this time, 18 of Cambodia's provinces were severely affected by drought and 2.5 million people were affected. There was significant crop damage and low water supplies which affected many poor communities who depend on precipitation fed water supplies

for irrigation. Health centers also reported increased cases of illnesses.¹¹¹

September 2013-Flooding

Heavy rains in September 2013 resulted in flooding in 20 provinces throughout the northwest and along the Mekong River in central and southern Cambodia. These conditions affected more than 1.7 million people and caused 188 casualties. More than 144,000 people were evacuated.¹¹²

2011-2012- Drought

In 2011, drought affected 3804 hectares (9400 acres) of rice fields and destroyed 53 hectares (130 acres). In 2012, drought conditions affected 11 provinces, affected 14,190 hectares (35,065 acres) of rice fields, and destroyed 3151 hectares.¹¹³

August-December 2011-Flooding

Heavy rains and the Mekong River overflowing its banks in August 2011 affected 18 provinces. The flooding affected more than 1.2 million people, caused approximately 250 deaths, and destroyed crops and infrastructure. Standing flood waters covered Cambodia for months, that only began to recede in December.¹¹⁴ Approximately 52,000 households were evacuated, and the flooding caused an estimated US\$ 630 million in damages.¹¹⁵

2009- Typhoon Ketsana

Cambodia was hit by Typhoon Ketsana on 29 September 2014. The typhoon affected 14 provinces and 180,000 households. The typhoon caused 43 deaths and injured 67 people.¹¹⁶ Typhoon Ketsana caused US\$ 24 million in damages to the education sector alone. Schools were closed due to inaccessibility due to destroyed infrastructure. Households that were hardest hit by the typhoon's effects were those most reliant on rice farming, other agriculture, and access to resources such as fish and non-timber forest products.¹¹⁷

Country Risks

Country Risk Profile

Risk calculation takes into account exposure to hazards, vulnerability, and institutional coping capacity, all of which are important factors in Disaster Risk Management. The Index for Risk Management (INFORM) Global Risk Index (GRI) measures the risk of humanitarian crisis and disasters in 191 countries. The INFORM GRI supports a proactive crisis management framework. INFORM GRI is helpful for establishing an objective allocation of resources for disaster management as well as for coordinating actions focused on anticipating, mitigating, and preparing for humanitarian emergencies. The INFORM GRI model is based on risk concepts published in scientific literature with three dimensions of risk: Hazards & 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.¹¹⁸

RISK PROFILE

The chart displays the GRI scores for the Natural and Human dimensions under the Hazard & Exposure category. The Natural dimension score is 5.8, and the Human dimension score is 4.6.

Dimension	Score
Natural	5.8
Human	4.6

This detailed chart provides a breakdown of the GRI scores across different hazard types and conflict intensities. The categories include: Natural hazard (earthquake 0.1, flood 9.5, tsunami 5.2, tropical cyclone 4.0), Human-made hazard (chemical 4.6, nuclear 4.6, conflict 4.6), and Conflict Intensity (0.0).

Hazard Type	Score
earthquake	0.1
flood	9.5
tsunami	5.2
tropical cyclone	4.0
chemical	4.6
nuclear	4.6
conflict	4.6
Conflict Intensity	0.0

The INFORM GRI 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.¹¹⁹ The higher the score the more at risk a country is to disasters. In the 2020 INFORM Global Risk Index, Cambodia had an overall risk of 4.8/10, which INFORM categorizes as the “medium” risk class. The Hazards and Exposure dimension score takes into account a combination of both natural and human hazards, and Cambodia rated 4.6/10 (Figure 3). The Vulnerability dimension score was 3.9/10, and the Lack of Coping Capacity dimension score was 6.2/10. Physical exposure to flood (9.5/10) was the highest risk in the Hazards & Exposure dimension, with development & deprivation measuring at a 7.3/10 risk for the vulnerability dimension. Governance was rated 7.2/10 in the Lack of Coping Capacity dimension.¹²⁰

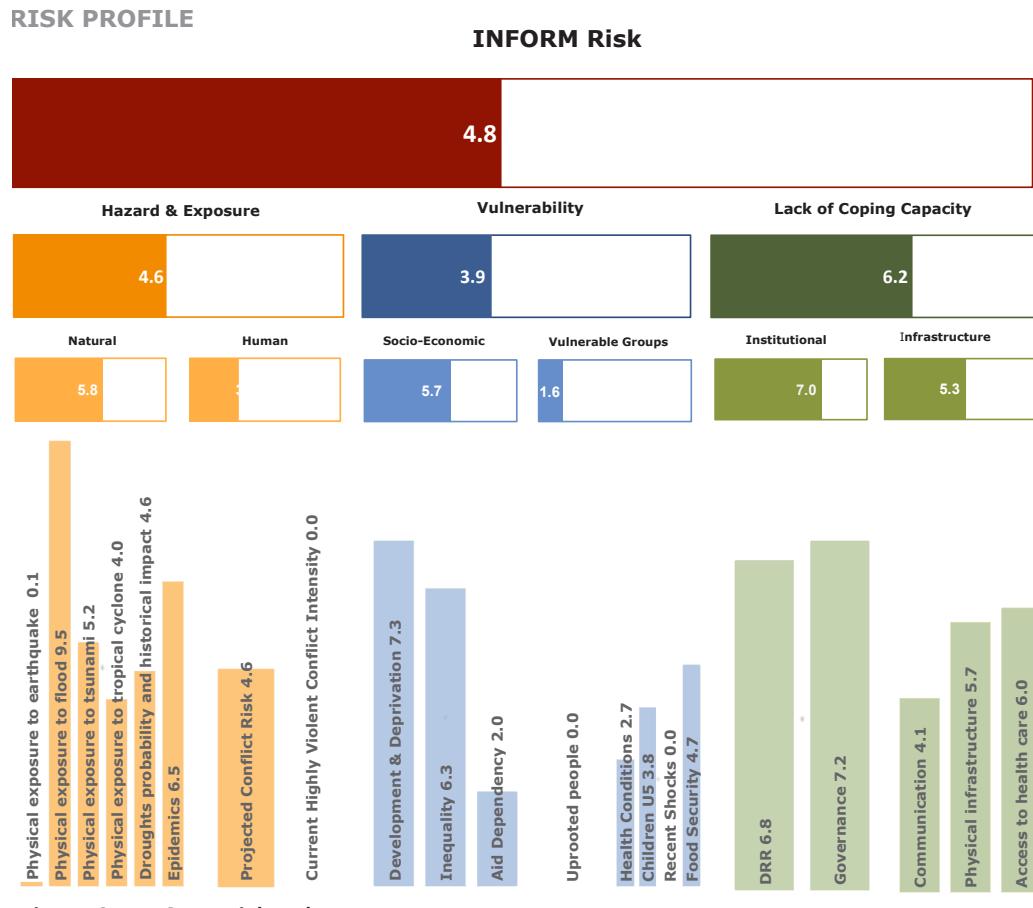


Figure 3: INFORM Risk Index

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE FOR DISASTER MANAGEMENT

The legal framework for Disaster Risk Management (DRM) began when the National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM) was established in 1995 under the sub-decree No.54 ANKR-BK, which was followed and supported by the sub-decree No. 30 ANKR. BK for establishing sub-national level disaster management committees.¹²¹

The National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction (NAP-DRR) for 2014-2018 continued the national strategy of emphasizing poverty reduction as the main development priority while also expanding the scope. The NAP-DRR focused on capacity building, mainstreaming disaster risk reduction (DRR), creating synergies between DRR and climate change adaptation (CCA), hastening institutional reforms, and highlighting research and academic institutions in national disaster management. The NAP-DRR replaced the Strategic National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction for 2008-2013, which was established to focus on vulnerability reduction, especially for people living in poverty, and to provide a guide for comprehensive DRR in Cambodia.¹²²

Figure 4 depicts the Framework for Disaster Risk Management in Cambodia with the National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM) at the apex.¹²³

Lead Government Agencies in Disaster Response

The National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM), established in 1995, is the main agency responsible for disaster management in Cambodia. During a disaster, the NCDM assembles at the National Emergency Coordination Centre to coordinate disaster response activities.¹²⁴ At the national level,

the NCDM consists of the Secretariat and five technical departments.¹²⁵ It is also comprised of 22 members from different ministries, Cambodian armed forces, the Civil Aviation Authority and the Cambodian Red Cross.¹²⁶ At the sub-national level, the structure is comprised of Municipal Committees for Disaster Management, Provincial Committees for Disaster Management, District Committees for Disaster Management, and Commune Committees for Disaster Management.¹²⁷ There are also Village Disaster Management Groups, which are the lowest-level bodies.¹²⁸

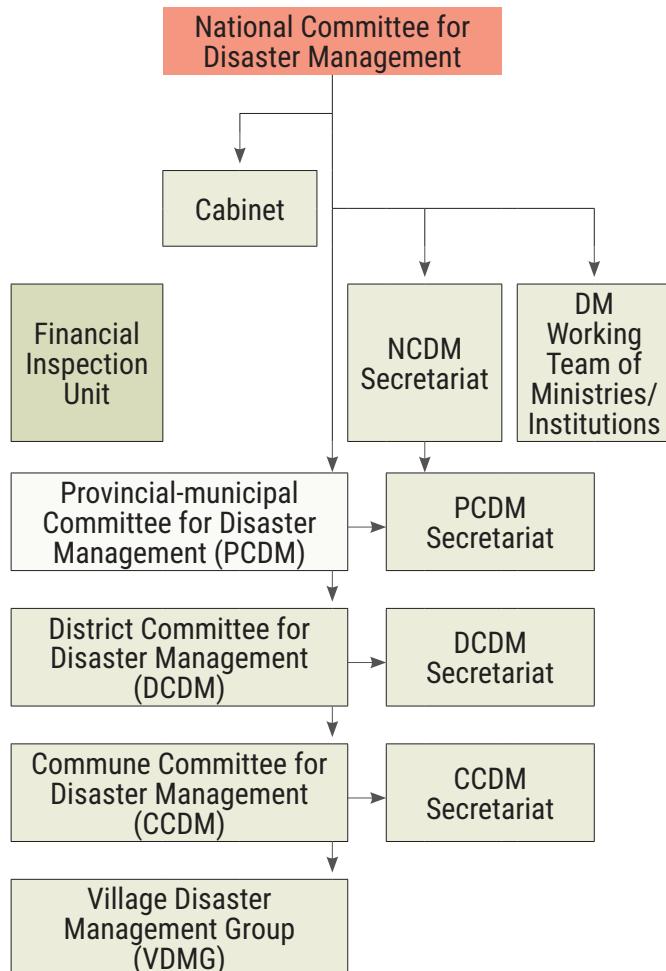


Figure 4: Disaster Risk Management Institutional Framework

The government ministries most actively involved in disaster risk management include:¹²⁹

- Ministry of National Defense
- Ministry of Public Works and Transport – provides transportation facilities for rapid movement of relief supplies and personnel for evacuations; reconstructs damaged infrastructure
- Ministry of Health – initiates the Rapid Response Teams (RRT) and Emergency Operation Center
- Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology – provides hydro meteorological early warning tools
- Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports – provides education on DRR and integrates DRR into public education
- Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries – preparing a Priority Framework for Action in CCA and DRR
- Ministry of Planning – key role in developing the Strategic National Action Plan.

The Ministry of Economy and Finance, while not as generally active as the ministries listed above, is notable for implementing the Cambodia Food Reserve System. The system was established in 2012 to set up a rice and vegetable seed stockpile to be sold at discounted prices, enabled by 50% subsidy, in response to disasters and emergencies.¹³⁰

Disaster Relief and Emergency Response

In the event of a disaster in Cambodia needing international assistance, the 2015 Disaster Management Law outlines that, upon the request of the NCDM, the government would appeal to the international community for assistance. The NCDM leads coordination and implementation of international assistance in terms of budget, resources, and materials, as pertains to implementation of bilateral, multilateral, regional and international agreements on disaster management and joint multi-lateral response during the emergency period. Foreign disaster responders are to provide assistance through the NCDM. Taxes and duties shall not be imposed upon disaster management and humanitarian

assistance activities.

Providers of foreign assistance shall inform the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and notify the NCDM about this assistance including budget, resources, materials, number of people and expertise available to deploy for the disaster relief and emergency response operation. Foreign disaster responders shall respect Cambodian rules, regulations, cultures and customs, and cooperate with the NCDM, relevant institutions, competent authorities, and communities. The NCDM and relevant ministries shall facilitate requirements for foreign responders. This includes the granting of special visas and import of materials, special procedures of which shall be determined by a sub-decree.¹³¹

Armed Forces Role in Disaster Relief

The Royal Cambodian Armed Forces (RCAF) play a significant role in domestic disaster response and relief, particularly as it relates to search and rescue. In accordance with Cambodia's defense policy, during disasters the RCAF is obligated to cooperate with all relevant authorities to rescue the people.¹³² During severe flooding in 2011, the RCAF was among the first to engage in search and rescue.¹³³ The Department of Search and Rescue is responsible for submitting to the RCAF plans on the use and means of search and rescue forces.¹³⁴ As a branch of RCAF, the Royal Gendarmerie of Cambodia, or military police, have duties that include assisting civilians in emergencies and natural disasters.¹³⁵

The RCAF and the Royal Gendarmerie are represented in the National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM), the key agency responsible for disaster management in Cambodia. At the national level, the NCDM consists of 22 members from different ministries, including the Cambodian armed forces.¹³⁶ The 2015 Disaster Management Law further delineates areas of disaster management the RCAF will participate in. The armed forces are specifically listed as among the government

entities that the NCDM must coordinate with to mobilize emergency operations and dispatch rapid assessment teams, and to issue guidelines to on disaster risk reduction and on developing a contingency plan and reserving assets. The armed forces shall also engage in disaster relief and emergency response operations upon the request of the competent authorities and NCDM, by providing human resources, materials, equipment, budgets, and technical assistance to the operations. The military may also be requested to provide specialized services, spaces, shelters, and treatment to victims unconditionally.¹³⁷

The RCAF participates bilaterally with other nations' armed forces, especially Vietnam and China, in exercises relating to disaster management or including humanitarian themes. In December 2019, Cambodian and Vietnamese soldiers jointly held a disaster rescue exercise. The one-day drill was conducted at a border area in Cambodia's Svay Rieng province and Vietnam's Long An province, to strengthen rescue capabilities for both troops in the event of floods and forest fires along the border.¹³⁸

Laws, Policies, and Plans on Disaster Management

The Government of Cambodia has developed

various legal and institutional arrangements to plan and manage disaster risk reduction and management activities. Table 3 depicts the national disaster management and disaster risk reduction policies, plans and legislation in Cambodia.¹³⁹

The 2015 Disaster Management Law, and the National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction is described in more detail below. In addition, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) is also discussed, although this is a regional agreement, not a national one.

Law on Disaster Management (2015)

Cambodia's Law on Disaster Management (DM Law) was passed by the National Assembly in June 2015. This was a significant shift from a system of disaster management based only on subsidiary legislation, which had been in place since 1995. In contrast, the 2015 DM Law is a broader and more authoritative legislative mandate on disaster management. A legal framework for disaster management assigns legally binding roles and responsibilities, establishes institutions, and helps ensure allocation of resources and mechanisms for coordination amongst different institutions.¹⁴⁰ Reflecting Cambodia's vulnerability to climate

IMPLEMENTATION	POLICY/PLAN	SCOPE	PURPOSE
ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF CAMBODIA	Sub-decree No.54 ANKR-BK	National	Mandates the establishment of the National Committee for Disaster Management
NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR DISASTER MANAGEMENT	Sub-decree No. 30 ANKR-BK	National, Provincial	Supports the decree No. 54 by requiring disaster management committees to be established below the national level
NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR DISASTER MANAGEMENT, OTHER RELEVANT PARTIES	National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction (2008-2013)	National, Provincial, Districts	Provides focus on vulnerability and poverty reduction, a road map for comprehensive DRR
NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR DISASTER MANAGEMENT, OTHER RELEVANT PARTIES	National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction (NAP-DRR) (2014-2018)	National, Provincial, Districts	Articulates country's DRR strategic focuses and desired outcomes towards resilience building
NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR DISASTER MANAGEMENT	Law on Disaster Management (2015)	National	Formalizes the role of the NDMC as the lead administrative organ of disaster management activities. Identifies roles and responsibilities of other institutions as well.

Table 3: National Disaster and Climate Risk Reduction Policies, Plans and Legislation in Cambodia

change, the law specifies that hazard risk prevention programs need to address climate change adaptation. With the objective to regulate disaster management, the three stated goals include:

- Prevention, adaptation and mitigation in the pre-disaster period, due to natural or human-made causes; and
- Emergency response during the disaster; and
- Recovery in the post-disaster period.¹⁴¹

The DM Law formalized the NCDM as the main authority of the government on disaster management, mandating the NCDM lead, administer, and coordinate all disaster management activities. Notably, for the first time, the DM Law provided a strong legal basis for the NCDM to coordinate international assistance during major disasters.¹⁴² It also formalizes budgetary support for the NCDM, as the law guarantees a budget for the NCDM and national or sub-national authorities to ensure the materialization of disaster management in Cambodia. It also includes guidelines for reserving assets to be used by public and private sectors, armed forces, civil societies, and other relevant institutions in disaster relief.¹⁴³

The Cambodia Red Cross played a key role in disseminating the 2015 Law on Disaster Management, with the objective to ensure greater understanding of the rights, roles and responsibilities of various actors provided in the law, including at the community level. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) supported the Cambodia Red Cross in developing an inclusive, systematic and practical dissemination package containing three themes which can be modified for different audiences; 1) International and Regional Commitments; 2) Cambodia Law on Disaster Management 2015; and 3) Know your Rights, Roles and Responsibilities in Disaster Risk Management.¹⁴⁴

The National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction (NAP-DRR) 2019-2023 supersedes the government's previous policies, NAP-DRR 2014-2018¹⁴⁵ and the Strategic National Action

Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction 2008-2012. The previous plans have primarily aligned with the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015. Development of the NAP-DRR 2019-2023 aligned national laws and guidelines, as well as with other resilience agendas, including the Sendai Framework for DRR, the Paris Agreement on climate change and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), all of which focus more on reducing, rather than managing, risk. A need was determined to increase focus on sub-national level DRR and improve coordination.¹⁴⁶ The new NAP is to prioritize guidelines and direction for all stakeholders on the implementation of disaster risk reduction in Cambodia over the next five years, as is consistent with the goals the government set out in phase IV of its "Rectangular Strategy" for Growth, Employment, Equity and Efficiency.¹⁴⁷ The NAP-DRR 2019-2023 guides implementation of DRR at a national level, after extensive analysis of previous plans and consultation with key stakeholders, including local and national government, UN agencies, NGOs and technical institutions. Priority actions across five areas including understanding risk, disaster risk governance, investing in/financing disaster risk reduction, enhancing preparedness and build back better, and ensuring coherence and inclusiveness.¹⁴⁸

ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER)

As a member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Cambodia also follows the AADMER. The national Focal Point for the AADMER is Cambodia's NCDM, in accordance with the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre) Agreement.¹⁴⁹

The AADMER contains provisions on disaster risk identification, monitoring and early warning, prevention and mitigation, preparedness and response, rehabilitation, technical cooperation and research, mechanisms for coordination, and simplified customs and immigration procedures. It is a regional legally-binding agreement that

binds South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Member States together to 1.) Promote regional cooperation and collaboration in disaster risk reduction, and 2.) Increase joint emergency response to disasters in the ASEAN region.¹⁵⁰

Disaster Management Partners

Cambodia has a vast network of UN agencies, international and national NGOs working on humanitarian, recovery, and development programs.

Cambodia Humanitarian Forum (CHF), was established in 2012 under the project “Strengthening Emergency Response Capacity of Humanitarian NGOs in Cambodia,” implemented by Asian Disaster Preparedness Center and funded by USAID. The project is coordinated by the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) and in-county partners NCDM and the Royal University of Phnom Penh. Its leading NGO is Partnership for Development in Kampuchea (PADEK).¹⁵¹ The goal of CHF is to improve humanitarian response to disasters in Cambodia by strengthening the leadership capacity of NGOs to better engage in the humanitarian framework by providing knowledge resources, training, and mentoring.¹⁵²

CHF has led to the strengthening of the local humanitarian network through a series of capacity development activities for local NGOs and other efforts.¹⁵³

Preparedness Partnership of Cambodia, APP, ADPC

The Preparedness Partnership of Cambodia is one of six country-specific programs crafted with the Asian Preparedness Partnership (APP), a major initiative being implemented by the ADPC. APP is a flagship regional platform was founded under the program “Strengthening the Emergency Response Capacity of Local Humanitarian Actors in Asia” being implemented by Asian Disaster Preparedness Center with support from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. It improves

the preparedness and emergency response to disasters by strengthening humanitarian leadership and technical capacity of national governments, local humanitarian organizations, and the private sector, to enable them to lead and better engage in the humanitarian framework. The partnership also aims to improve inter-organizational coordination by engaging the range of local humanitarian organizations and other actors for increased dialogue with the national government and inter-agency networks through partnerships, exchange of information and knowledge resources, trainings, and networking opportunities. To this end, APP facilitated Guidance Notes on Humanitarian Assistance for local NGOs.¹⁵⁴ APP’s Preparedness Partnership of Cambodia (PPC) prominently involves the National Committee for Disaster Management, Cambodian Humanitarian Forum, and Federation of Associations for SMEs of Cambodia. Cambodia is one of six focus countries of the APP, with the others being Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, and Sri Lanka.¹⁵⁵

Partnership for Development of Kampuchea (PADEK) is a Cambodian non-government organization working to assist disadvantaged rural communities to improve their livelihoods and quality of life and was among the first NGOs to begin working in community development in Cambodia. Padek was established in 1986 from a consortium of five international donors, with Oxfam Novib (Oxfam’s Dutch affiliate) acting as the leading donor. In 2002, Padek registered as an international NGO with the Cambodian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. In 2008, Padek became a Cambodian NGO with the Ministry of Interior and Cambodian staff took over the management and leadership of the organization.¹⁵⁶ When it was founded, given the fragile state of civil society following the civil war and the immense poverty, Padek focused on the quality of life of the rural poor and the most vulnerable. With this goal, PADEK supports community savings, livelihood enhancement, disaster resilience and people’s participation in governance and

gender equity. PADEK views “capacity building” as no longer a sufficient response on its own to community development, thus the NGO’s approach combines capacity building, problem analysis and understanding the underlying issues to ensure appropriate support is provided to communities. PADEK’s three main project areas are community savings, livelihood enhancement, and disaster resilience.¹⁵⁷

Federation of Associations of Small and Medium Enterprises in Cambodia (FASMEC) is a private sector network established in 2010. It is a collective of associations for various sectors of small and medium-sized enterprises in Cambodia. FAMSEC represents private sector interests in disaster preparedness and business continuity. Small and medium enterprises are a crucial and prominent part of the Cambodian economy, as in other developing countries,¹⁵⁸ by creating jobs, generating income for poor and vulnerable populations, and fostering economic growth, social stability, and contributing to the growth of a dynamic private sector.¹⁵⁹ Per the 2018 annual report of the Ministry of Industry and Handicraft – or the newly-named Ministry of Industry, Science, Technology and Innovation – small and medium enterprises account for 70% of employment, 99.8% of companies and 58% of gross domestic product in Cambodia.¹⁶⁰

The Joint Action Group (JAG) is an informal group of civil society organizations working in Cambodia on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Disaster Management. Members coordinate relevant activities and share information, knowledge, skills, and experience. Members include ActionAid, ACTED, AVSF, CARE, Caritas, DanChurchAid, Habitat for Humanity, IFRC, KHANA, Life with Dignity, Muslim Aid, Oxfam, Plan, People in Need, Save the Children, and World Vision. Observers include CHF/ADPC, and UNDP and UNICEF (on behalf of UN system).¹⁶¹

Humanitarian Country Team (HCT)

A Humanitarian Country Team may be established after the Government of Cambodia

officially requests international assistance following a major disaster. Once established, the HCT would be responsible for agreeing on common strategic issues related to humanitarian issues in support of a government-led response. The HCT is typically comprised of the UN Country Team (all UN agencies already running programs in Cambodia pre-disaster, see below), components of the International Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement, and NGOs. A Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) would be designated by the Emergency Relief Coordinator, head of UN OCHA, to coordinate the HCT. Frequently, the HC designation is assigned to the current Resident Coordinator (RC),¹⁶² the senior-most UN personnel in country who leads coordination of all UN development activities during steady state.

While there is currently no active HCT in Cambodia, there is a Humanitarian Response Forum (HRF) that coordinates development and humanitarian actors for national and local-level disasters.

Humanitarian Response Forum (HRF)

The Humanitarian Response Forum (HRF) in Cambodia was established in 2011 in response to the demand for increased coordination between development partners to address the demands of humanitarian disasters, primarily floods and drought. The objective of the HRF is to ensure sound coordination and communication on emergency preparedness, and humanitarian response in Cambodia between the United Nations (UN), international non-governmental organizations (INGOs), and international organizations (IOs). The HRF works in close collaboration with the Government, most notably the National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM), to facilitate a coordinated and effective approach in support of people affected by humanitarian crises. Current HRF co-chairs are representatives from Dan Church Aid and World Food Programme (WFP).

The HRF Contingency Plan structure is similar to that of the National Contingency Plan, organized into six sectors and a common part

applicable across sectors. The HRF Contingency Plan will focus on natural disasters, while man-made disasters such as conflict or political unrest will be addressed by organizations with a specific mandate. The HRF Sector Lead and Co-lead Agencies are listed in Table 4.¹⁶³

SECTOR	LEAD AND CO-LEAD AGENCIES
Food Security and Nutrition	World Food Programme, DanChurchAid
WASH	UNICEF, World Vision
Shelter	International Organization for Migration, People In Need
Health	World Health Organization
Education	UNICEF, Save the Children
Protection	UNICEF, Save the Children, World Vision

Table 4: HRF Sector Lead and Co-lead Agencies

The work of the HRF Secretariat is supported by funding from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Government of Japan for disaster risk management in Cambodia.¹⁶⁴

UN Country Team (UNCT)

The United Nations Country Team is comprised of all UN agencies, funds, offices, and programs that are present or running programs in Cambodia. The UN entities in Cambodia are the: Food and Agricultural Organization of the UN (FAO); International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA); International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD); International Labour Organization (ILO); International Organization for Migration (IOM); International Trade Centre (ITC); UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR); UN Environment Programme (UNEP); UN-Habitat; UN Women; UNAIDS; UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF); UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTD); UN Development Programme (UNDP); UN Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); UN Population Fund (UNFPA), UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), UN Industrial Development Organization; UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC); UN Volunteers; World

Food Programme (WFP); and World Health Organization (WHO).¹⁶⁵

The UNCT is led by the UN Resident Coordinator, the most senior ranked UN personnel in the country. The RC plays a central role in coordinating UN operational activities for development at the country level in support of national priorities and capacity building.¹⁶⁶ Cambodia's current RC, as of October 2020, is Pauline Tamesis, based in Phnom Penh.¹⁶⁷

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. The ICRC bases its activities on the provisions of International Humanitarian Law, and 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.¹⁶⁸

The ICRC started humanitarian work in Cambodia in 1965, helping those affected by the Viet Nam War and outbreaks of internal conflict. In 1979, the ICRC opened its first permanent office in Phnom Penh to deal with emergency relief operations. In 1991, the Physical Rehabilitation Program in collaboration with Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation. The ICRC closed its office in Cambodia in 2000, but continued the Physical Rehabilitation Program, as well as visits to detainees and prisons as covered by the ICRC Regional Delegation in Bangkok. In 2007, ICRC reestablished an office in Phnom Penh to expand its work with prison authorities in improving conditions of detention for inmates and promoting international humanitarian law. In 2016, a support office opened in Battambang Province, focusing on physical rehabilitation and social inclusion of those living with disabilities. Many of the 150,000 disabled people in

Cambodia have lost limbs to landmines and face difficulties reintegrating into society, reflecting how the legacy of war continues affecting Cambodians. The ICRC works together with the Cambodian Red Cross to: 1) Support response to emergencies, in conflict and natural disasters, in accordance with the fundamental principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement; 2) Support their efforts in communications and organizational development; and 3) Promote the understanding of the fundamental principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement as well as the basic rules of international humanitarian law.¹⁶⁹

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is a humanitarian organization that provides assistance and promotes humanitarian activities by their National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering. It was founded in 1919 and includes 192 National Societies. The IFRC carries out relief operations to assist victims of disasters and combines this with development work to strengthen the capacities of its member National Societies.¹⁷⁰

Cambodian Red Cross (CRC)

The Cambodian Red Cross is the largest humanitarian organization in Cambodia. It is officially recognized by the government as an auxiliary to public authorities providing humanitarian services. The CRC is comprised of 25 branches in addition to the national headquarters.¹⁷¹ It was established in 1955 and has been an operational partner with the International Committee of the Red Cross since then. In 2016, a three-year Partnership Framework Agreement was signed between the ICRC and CRC.¹⁷²

The CRC provides a wide range of disaster relief, humanitarian, and development work. It has distributed relief to those affected by floods, storms, and other disasters. It also promotes

building resilience among communities at high risk of disasters by improving access to food sources and livelihoods as well as conducting educational campaigns. It has worked to improve water and sanitation, thus positively impacting people's health. The CRC has also worked to improve health with efforts against HIV, dengue, and other communicable diseases. It has also tackled socioeconomic issues ranging from educating about the dangers of human trafficking to facilitating microloans to improve livelihoods and reduce poverty.¹⁷³

The President of the CRC since 1998 has been Ms. Bun Rany Hun Sen, who is also the wife of Prime Minister Hun Sen. Queen Norodom Monineath Sihanouk has held the title of Honorary President of the CRC since 1994.¹⁷⁴ Ms. Bun Rany Hun Sen has also won numerous international awards for her work with the CRC to improve the lives of women and children, especially in regards to orphans, domestic safety and women's vocational training.¹⁷⁵ She was recognized as a national champion for mother and child health in 2011, receiving the award from the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) Asia Pacific Regional Director as well as receiving letters of recognition from UNICEF and UNAIDS.¹⁷⁶

U.S. Government Agencies in Cambodia

USAID works with Cambodian and international partners to implement programs that benefit all Cambodians. USAID in Cambodia focuses on strengthening democratic governance 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 impact of natural hazards.¹⁷⁷ USAID's contact information includes:

Mission Contact

Veena Reddy, Mission Director
 USAID/Cambodia, U.S. Embassy
 No 1, Street 96, Wat Phnom, Khan Daun Penh
 Phnom Penh
 Cambodia
 Phone: +855 (23) 728 300
 Fax: +855 (23) 430 263
 Email: icambodia@usaid.gov

USAID Contact

Zachary Child, Cambodia Desk Officer
 U.S. Agency for International Development
 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
 Washington, DC 20523
 USA
 Phone: (202) 216-6967
 Email: zchild@usaid.gov

U.S. Embassy Phnom Penh

#1, Street 96
 Sangkat Wat Phnom
 Khan Daun Penh, Phnom Penh
 Phone: (855-23) 728-000

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) offers the Borlaug International Agricultural Science and Technology Fellowship Program (Borlaug Fellowship Program) for Cambodia. The program promotes agricultural productivity, food security, and economic growth through collaborative research. It offers training for agricultural research, leadership, and agricultural policy to university faculty, researchers, and government officials in Cambodia.¹⁷⁸

Disaster Management Communications

Early Warning Systems

Following severe flooding in 2011, Early Warning System (EWS) 1294 (named after the government-supported mobile short code ‘1294’) was established as a free mobile phone service, developed by the Czech NGO People in Need (PIN) with the support of the NCDM.¹⁷⁹

In the event of a natural disaster in Cambodia, the system enables NCDM to send voice based alerts directly to the mobile phones of people at risk. People in Cambodia register by calling for free and following prompts to register province, district, and commune.¹⁸⁰

By 2019, 15 of the country’s 25 provinces (24 provinces plus the autonomous municipality of the capital) were covered by EWS 1294, when People in Need partnered with UNDP to expand the early warning system. The expansion includes installing ten new river water gauges developed by PIN’s innovation team across four provinces – Kampong Cham, Tboung Khmum, Prey Veng and Svey Rieng – to enhance early warning capacity for floods. The goal is for nationwide coverage by 2020.¹⁸¹

Early warning systems were a significant part of a four-year project (2015–2019) implemented by the Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology (MOWRAM). Funded by the UN Development Programme (UNDP), the project also involved the National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM) and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) to bridge gaps in institutional capacity, inter-ministerial coordination, and infrastructure.¹⁸² This includes reinstalling or rehabilitating 24 automatic weather and agrometeorological stations and 55 automatic hydrological stations that cover surface and ground water. The data collected will be used to generate and disseminate early warning messages for disaster preparedness and response and for future planning for climate change adaptation since Cambodia faces significant development challenges related to climate change.¹⁸³ Compared with the previous system, which required at least five calls before anyone in the public received disaster alert information, EWS 1294 enables disaster information reaching the public in just two calls. Figure 5 depicts the EWS 1294 lines of communication and reporting lines.¹⁸⁴

The COVID-19 pandemic, which reached Cambodia in early March, spurred further expansion of EWS 1294. The NGO People in Need, with support from the NCDM,

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE FOR DISASTER MANAGEMENT

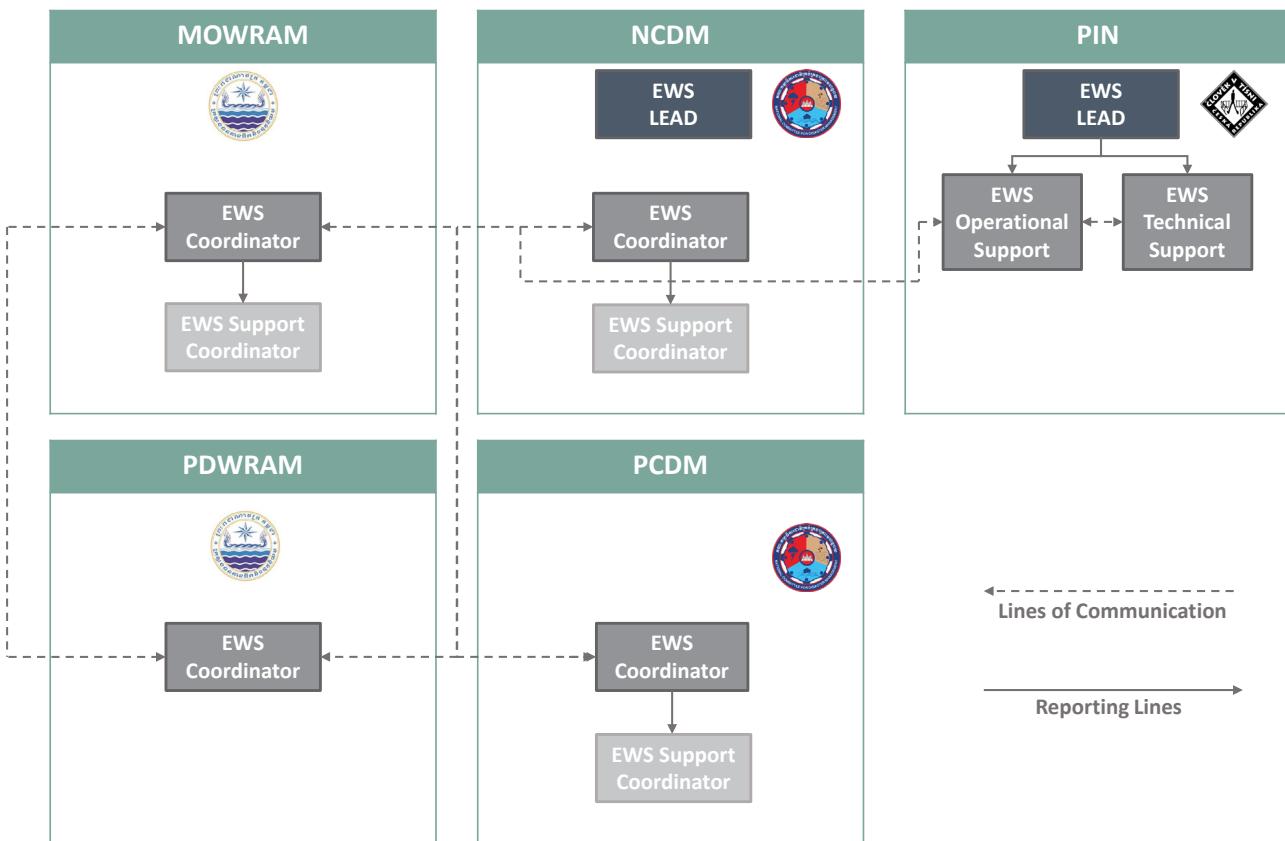


Figure 5: EWS 1294 Communication Channels and Reporting Lines

incorporated a COVID-19 awareness campaign into the disaster management program. “Within the first three weeks of activity, the system had successfully disseminated 129,843 individual messages related to COVID-19 to the public,” said PIN Cambodia Program Coordinator Jak Chowdhary in April. PIN Cambodia also increased channels for disseminating COVID-19 information, including use of the EWS 1294 Facebook page. As of April 2020, the page had 70,000 followers, but the COVID-19 posts had achieved a collective reach of 1.2 million people. Continuing development of EWS 1294 is funded by UNDP and the Czech Republic’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with previous funding having been received from the European Union and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.¹⁸⁵

The World Food Programme (WFP), working with the NCDM, in 2015 launched the Platform for Real-time Impact and Situation Monitoring (PRISM) initiative, which is a hub of information that uses an interactive online map to gather

data from government ministries and vulnerable people. The platform offers the government data necessary to lead in a coordinated approach with UN partners, NGOs, and others to prepare and respond in the event of a disaster. “We launched PRISM in 2015 with three key goals: data visualization, management, and as a place for people, governments, NGOs and the UN to share information,” says PRISM Coordinator Andre Martinez. “PRISM’s latest map features weather information and an early-warning system that allows us to predict storms three to four days in advance, and lightning 45 minutes before it strikes. It links to partners’ early-warning systems, which alert people on their phones if a river will flood, so they can make decisions about their safety, crops and food supplies.”¹⁸⁶ In July 2020, an upgraded version of PRISM was launched, including impact and situation monitoring linking field assessment information, early warning systems, remote sensing technology and socio-economic vulnerability data to measure risk and impact. According to

NCDM first vice-president Kun Kim, “Before a disaster, PRISM enables NCDM to access the latest available climate hazard information, alongside vulnerability data through an intuitive, map-based dashboard to design risk reduction activities and target disaster responses.” Kim cited the example of the Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology predicting that the 2020 rainy season would come sooner than the previous year.¹⁸⁷

Recommendations from the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation include strengthening Cambodia’s disaster information system (CamDi) for better data analysis, improving irrigation systems, including disaster risk reduction in commune investment plans, better implementation of the disaster management law, and improving early warning systems by modernizing and expanding forecast, prediction, warning, and scope of communications.¹⁸⁸

Information Sharing

Understanding how to overcome the information challenges that civilian and military agencies experience during a typical disaster response mission is important. Knowing what the available HADR resources are, will assist Joint Task Force leaders and staff during mission planning.¹⁸⁹ Sharing information is critical since no single responding entity, NGO, International Governmental Organization (IGO), assisting country government, and host government can be the source of all the required information.¹⁹⁰

Collaboration, information sharing (IS), 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. Recent technology has advanced to aid predicting and alerting of disasters around the world which has resulted in early warning and evacuation measures as well as opportunities to react and prepare for incoming threats to countries.

The following are some of the ways in which

information regarding disaster risk management and response are shared. Managing information is central to the overall mechanisms within disaster preparedness and response. There are many resources, stakeholders, and components to consider with IS before, during, and after a natural disaster. This section will discuss country-specific, humanitarian, regional, government, and DoD information sources.

Cambodia Information Sources:

Cambodia Disaster Damage & Loss Information System (CamDi)

The CAMDI database¹⁹¹ was first developed in 2015 under the National Committee for Disaster Management with support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). A total of 7,800 records of disaster events from 1996 to 2013 were input into the database, allowing an overarching view of disasters across almost 20 years. In 2019, UNDP tried to address challenges in keeping data updated by improving the relevancy and accuracy of the data and aligning the database with the global Sendai Framework. In line with the Sendai Framework, CamDi aims to disaggregate data by hazard, sex, age, disability, income, and geography, to facilitate identifying vulnerable groups.¹⁹²

Website: <http://camdi.ncdm.gov.kh/>

Open Development Cambodia (ODC)

Open Development Cambodia is an open data website, the first of its kind in Southeast Asia. It provides the public with up-to-date information about Cambodia and its economic and social development. There are sections devoted to disasters and emergency response; aid and development; as well as other sections that may touch upon food security, climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction.

Website: <https://opendevelopmentcambodia.net/>
Relevant web pages:

- <https://opendevelopmentcambodia.net/topics/disasters-and-emergency-response>
- <https://opendevelopmentcambodia.net/topics/aid-and-development/>

Humanitarian Response Forum

The Humanitarian Response Forum (HRF) started with USAID funding in 2011, commencing in 2012 to improve humanitarian response to disasters in Cambodia by strengthening the leadership capacity of NGOs to better engage in the humanitarian framework by providing knowledge resources, training, and mentoring. Many HRF-produced situation reports on disaster responses in Cambodia are cross-posted to ReliefWeb (reliefweb.int). The HRF Secretariat is currently supported by contributions from USAID and the Government of Japan.¹⁹³

Website: <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/cambodia>

Email contact: cambodia.hrf@wfp.org

Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) – Asian Preparedness Partnership (APP) – Cambodia pages

APDC, established in 1986, is an international organization building the resilience of people and institutions to disasters and climate change impacts in Asia and the Pacific by providing technical services across social and physical sciences. APDC's Asian Preparedness Partnership program was started in partnership with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to strengthen local government and humanitarian leadership and technical capacity in six countries, including Cambodia.

Website, pages specific to Cambodia:

- <https://app.adpc.net/km/countries/cambodia>
- <https://app.adpc.net/cambodia-covid-19-update>
- <https://app.adpc.net/index.php/publications/by-country/5>
- <https://app.adpc.net/km/events>

National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM)

As the Cambodian government's lead agency on disaster management, the NCDM's website provides news on recent government activities relating to disaster preparedness and response:

Website, English page:

<http://www.ncdm.gov.kh/Home/Index>

Cambodian Red Cross

The Cambodian Red Cross, the largest humanitarian organization in Cambodia, provides some English-language information resources on their website, under the "Publication and Report" section.

Website, Publication and Report webpage, English: <https://redcross.org.kh/category/publication-and-report/>

Humanitarian Information Sources

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) seeks to optimize the speed, volume and quality of humanitarian assistance and coordinates emergency preparedness and response in support of national governments. ROAP covers 41 countries partnering with them for coordinated and effective international responses to emergency situations.

Website: <https://www.unocha.org/roap>

ReliefWeb is a service of UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) that consolidates information and analysis from organizations, countries, and disasters for the humanitarian community.

Website: <https://reliefweb.int/>

PreventionWeb is provided by the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR, formerly UNISDR) to consolidate disaster risk reduction information into an online, easy to understand platform.

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

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is the world's largest humanitarian organization, comprised of its 192-member National Societies including Australian Red Cross, a secretariat in Geneva 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 its member National Societies. The IFRC's work focuses on four core areas: promoting humanitarian values, disaster response, disaster preparedness, and health and community care.¹⁹⁴

Website: <https://media.ifrc.org/ifrc>

The International Committee of the Red Cross (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 humanitarian law and universal humanitarian principles. ICRC, together with IFRC and the 192 Red Cross Red Crescent Societies, make up the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement.¹⁹⁵

Website: <https://www.icrc.org/en>

Humanitarian Response is a platform providing the humanitarian community a means to aid in coordination of operational information and related activities.

Website: <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info>

Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System (GDACS) is a cooperation framework between the United Nations, 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 OSOCC is a real-time online coordination tool for disaster response professionals from USAR teams, national authorities, as well as regional and international organizations at a global level.

Website: <https://vosocc.unocha.org/>

Alerts: <http://www.gdacs.org/Alerts/default.aspx>

To subscribe: <http://www.gdacs.org/About/contactus.aspx>

Consider other information resources, such as:

Think Hazard is a website that provides detailed information on a country. Information is provided on Cambodia regarding hazards, country assessments, projects, early warning systems, and other resources. You can log onto their website at <http://thinkhazard.org>

Humanitarian Country Teams (HCT)

The 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 as well as the respective National Society in the country. 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) 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

Changi Regional HADR Coordination Centre (RHCC)

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. RHCC manages the OPERA CIS web portal to broadcast the updated situation status of multinational military responses to disasters to minimize duplication and gaps in the provision of foreign military assistance.

Website: <https://www.changirhcc.org/>
To subscribe to RHCC Weekly and Spot Reports, email: Changi_RHCC@defence.gov.sg

U.S. Government (USG) Sources

U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)

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 newsletter called USAID Newsletter which is available digitally at <https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/newsletter>.

More information and updates from USAID are available via their blog, IMPACT, at <https://blog.usaid.gov/> and on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube.

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

Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA)

The Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) is responsible for leading and coordinating the U.S. Government response to disasters overseas. BHA responds to an average of 65 disasters in more than 50 countries every year. BHA fulfills its mandate of saving lives, alleviating human suffering and the reduction of the social and economic impact to disasters worldwide in partnership with USAID functional and regional bureaus and other U.S. government agencies. BHA works with the international population to assist countries prepare for, respond to, and recover from humanitarian crises.¹⁹⁶

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

For BHA updates on a disaster response, ask the BHA representative for the respective COCOM to add you to the email list, if you have a U.S. government email address:

- BHA.INDOPACOM@usaid.gov
- BHA.SOUTHCOM@usaid.gov
- BHA.NORTHCOM@usaid.gov
- BHA.AFRICOM@usaid.gov
- BHA.SOCOM@usaid.gov
- BHA.CENTCOM@usaid.gov
- BHA.EUCOM@usaid.gov

Pacific Disaster Center Global

Pacific Disaster Center (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 disaster risk reduction 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.¹⁹⁷

PDC also provides a public version, Disaster Alert, which offers open access to a world map documenting 18 hazard types.¹⁹⁸ Disaster Alert also has a free, early-warning app to receive customizable maps based visual alerts of active hazards. The app offers a global notification system covering natural and man-made hazards. It is available on both iPhone and Android.¹⁹⁹

Website:

- <https://www.pdc.org/>
 - <https://www.pdc.org/apps/disasteraware/>
- Emergency Operations (EMOPS) system: (Request account): <https://emops.pdc.org/emops/>

All Partners Access Network (APAN)

APAN is the Unclassified Information Sharing Service (UISS) for the U.S. Department of Defense (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. Importantly, APAN's technology team has been supporting humanitarian assistance and disaster response (HADR) operations for over 15 years. 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.²⁰⁰

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

Note: The Multinational Communication Interoperability Program (MCIP) has an APAN site used in planning exercises and real world HADR information sharing.

Joint Typhoon Warning Center provides advanced warning for U.S. Government agencies and organizations in relevant areas.

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

Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies (DKI-APCSS) is a U.S. Department of Defense institute that addresses regional and global security issues, inviting military and civilian representatives of the U.S. and Asia-Pacific nations to its program of executive education and workshops.

Website: <https://apcss.org/>

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

The Center for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance

(CFE-DM) is a U.S. Department of Defense organization that was established by U.S. Congress in 1994 and is a direct reporting unit to U.S. Indo-Pacific Command. CFE-DM provides training and education to help U.S. and foreign military personnel navigate complex issues in 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 and reduce duplication of efforts and promote U.S. involvement in civ-mil consultations and dialogues with relevant HADR parties such as the AHA Center, OCHA and the RHCC. CFE provides DMHA resources and updates at its website, as well as via their Facebook and Twitter accounts.

Website: <https://www.cfe-dmha.org/>

Disaster Management Reference Handbooks are available for download at:

<https://www.cfe-dmha.org/DMHA-Resources/Disaster-Management-Reference-Handbooks>

CFE-DM Disaster Information Reports are available for download at:

<https://www.cfe-dmha.org/Publications/Reports>

Civil-Military Coordination in Foreign Disaster Relief Missions: Best Practices for Information Sharing is available here:

<https://www.cfe-dmha.org/Publications>

COVID-19 Information Sharing Sources

Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center

<https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html> COVID-19

Cases Database

<https://github.com/CSSEGISandData/COVID-19>

INFORM's new COVID-19 Risk Index

<https://data.humdata.org/dataset/inform-covidanalysis-v01>

INFRASTRUCTURE

The main national trade route is the corridor linking the capital, Phnom Penh, to the southern coastal city of Sihanoukville, Cambodia's main seaport. The main international trade routes are the corridor connecting Phnom Penh toward the west to Bangkok, the capital of Thailand, and toward the east to Ho Chi Minh City, the largest city in Vietnam.

While major national roads and international highways are more developed, road linking cities out to rural areas and urban transport systems within cities are less developed. Rehabilitating and improving railway has been a goal to improve national and regional connectivity and trade. Seaport efficiency has improved, but shipping costs remain relatively high.²⁰¹

Airports

Cambodia has three international airports, of which Phnom Penh International Airport is the main one. The Phnom Penh airport is for joint civil-military use and has served as the main base of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces (RCAF) and its predecessors since 1954. It has been used by the AVRK Flying Training School since 1955. Cambodia's other two international airports

include Siem Reap International Airport and Sihanoukville International Airport.

The airport operator for all three international airports is the Cambodia Airport Company, which increased its capital expenditures to approximately US\$250 million for the next five years, as of April 2019. It will undertake terminal expansion projects at the three airports, ensuring sufficient facilities capacity until at least 2022-2023. Responsibility for regulation of civil aviation resides with the State Secretariat for Civil Aviation, which reports directly to the Council of Ministers.²⁰²

Table 5 includes information regarding runway dimensions and surfaces for the three international airports.²⁰³

Seaports

Sihanoukville Autonomous Port is currently the only deep-sea port in Cambodia, covering approximately 125 hectares of total land area. Located in the Bay of Kampong Som, Sihanoukville port facilitates maritime transport, advantaged by deep waters, a string of islands that serve as a barrier against strong winds and waves, and situated where permanent dredging

Airport	Runway Dimensions	Runway Surface / Notes
Phnom Penh International Airport	<u>Runway:</u> Published length - 3120m x 300m (10,236 feet x 984 feet) Usable length - 3000m x 60m (9,843 ft. x 197 ft.) Orientation: 05/23	Concrete 355m x 130m PCN 56/R/DX/U / Asphalt 190m x 103m + 90m x 100m 100 The runway has been upgraded to category 4E which allows the handling of wide-body aircraft (such as B747, A340 or A330) for regular flights.
	<u>Helipad:</u> 5.4m x 30.1m (18 ft. x 99 ft.)	30.4m Largest helicopter that can land: CH-47 Chinook helicopters and over
Siem Reap International Airport	<u>Runway:</u> 2,550m x 45m (8,366 x 148 ft.) Orientation: 05 (48°), 23 (228°)	Asphalt PCN 44 R/B/X/T
	<u>Helipad:</u> 47m x 47m (154 ft. x 154 ft.)	2,500 sq. meters (26,910 sq. feet)
Sihanoukville International Airport	<u>Runway:</u> 2,500m x 45m Orientation: 03 (028°), 21 (208°)	Asphalt PCN 39 F/A/W/T

Table 5: International Airports in Cambodia

of navigational channels are not needed. The seaport was built in 1956, has been expanded since and has now eight berths equipped with modern cargo handling equipment. In 2015 the volume of cargo throughput was equivalent to 3.8 million tons, excluding 391,000 TEUs of containers. Since then, the volume of cargo throughput has increased more than 10%. The port can accommodate vessels with 20,000 DWT loading capacity or approximately 1,500 TEUs for container vessels.²⁰⁴ In the 2nd quarter of 2019, the total revenue of Sihanoukville Autonomous Port was 81,700,201,000 KHR (19,904,500 USD), an increase of 16% from one year prior.²⁰⁵

A second deep-sea port is being constructed in Kampot province, with the docking space and seaport entrance complete, according to Mr. Soy Sinol, Deputy of Kampot Tourism Department in May 2020. The new deep-water seaport is a joint venture between China's Guangxi Beibu Gulf International Port Group and Cambodia's Try Pheap Group. Upon completion, the seaport in Kampot is intended to connect the region's coastal shipping corridor, linking with Ha Tien, Vietnam, and Thailand's Trat province, along with Cambodia's Sihanoukville and Koh Kong provinces. The port will have the capacity to accommodate large vessels of up to 30,000 tons. Originally envisioned to be finished by early 2020, the timeline has been pushed back due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Two other port projects along Cambodia's southern coast have been announced by the government – Kep International Tourist Port and the Koh Tansay port.²⁰⁶

The main river port, on the Mekong River, is in the capital, Phnom Penh, and is navigable from the ocean.²⁰⁷

Roads

Roads account for 65% of freight transit and 87% of passenger traffic in Cambodia. Two major expressways are being developed to accommodate growing trade and economic activity. One connects the national capital, Phnom Penh, to Sihanoukville, the capital of the coastal province of Preah Sihanouk. The 190-kilometer (118-mile) expressway was started

in 2019 and was 20% complete as of March 2020. The Ministry of Public Works and Transport plans completion in mid-2022, with an estimated cost of US\$1.9 billion.²⁰⁸ A second expressway is to run approximately 213 km (132 mi.), connecting Phnom Penh with Ho Chi Minh City, the largest city in neighboring Vietnam.²⁰⁹

The main government agency responsible for the management of road infrastructure is the Ministry of Public Works and Transport (MPWT), which has the authority to direct and manage the public and transport sectors of the Kingdom of Cambodia as a whole. Public infrastructure included 16 major bridges with a total length of 13,805 km, concrete roads 397.01 km in length, AC rubber roads 1911.55 km in length, DBST roads 7144.10 km in length, MCD roads 2565.61 km in length, and red gravel roads 1016.31 km in length, as of the end of 2017.²¹⁰ Figures 6 shows the organizational chart for the Ministry of Public Works and Transport.²¹¹

Railways

Cambodia has two rail lines, totaling around 603 kilometers (375 miles). Both are of single, one-meter-gauge track, and originate in Phnom Penh. Much of the country's railways were damaged during the civil war in the 1970s, though have since been largely reconstructed. The first line was originally built in 1942 during the French colonial era, running from Phnom Penh to Poipet at the Thai border. Cambodia and Thailand were recently reconnected by that rail line after 45 years, which was officially inaugurated in April 2019. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) funded approximately US\$13 million for reconstruction of the rail link.²¹² Thailand donated 140km (87 miles) of used track, and Malaysia donated 200 tons of used rails.²¹³

The second line was built from 1960-1969, and runs from Phnom Penh to Sihanoukville on the southern coast. Service between Phnom Penh and Battambang has been reduced from a daily to weekly basis due to the lack of funds to maintain the tracks and rolling stock. Derailing of operating trains occurs frequently.²¹⁴

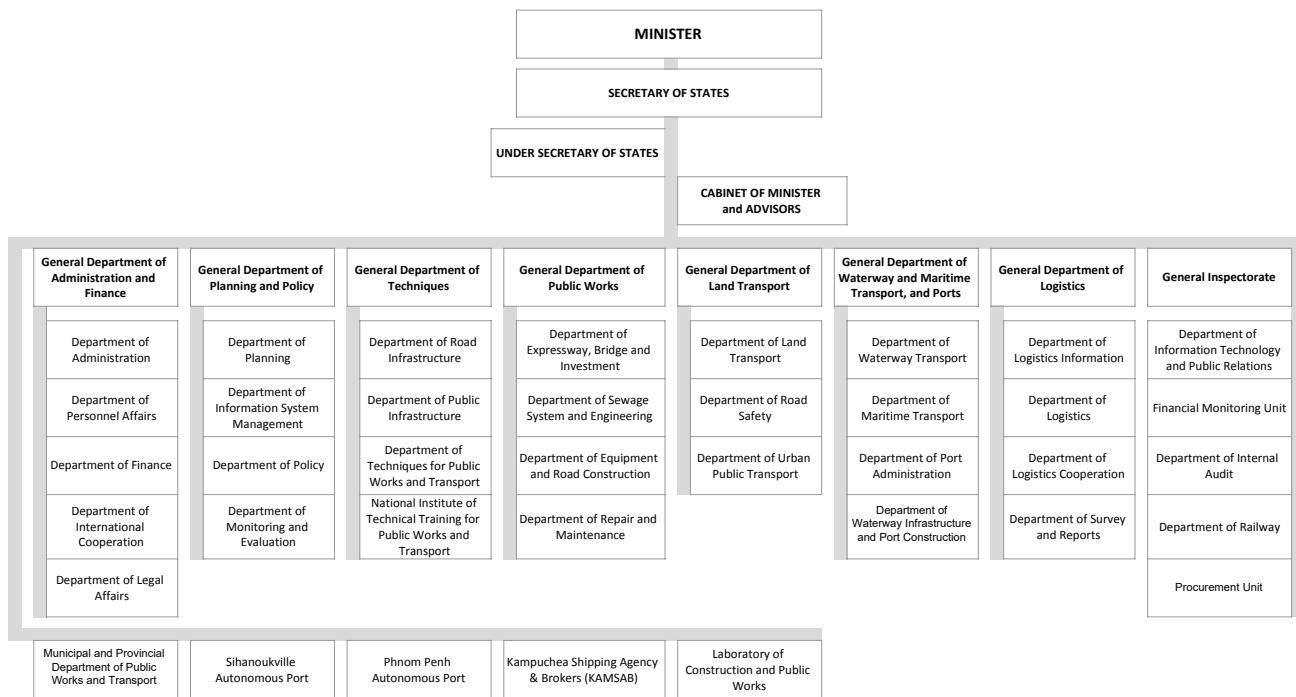


Figure 6: Ministry of Public Works and Transport, Organization Chart

The Royal Government of Cambodia had outsourced its railway operations in 2009 under an exclusive, 30-year concession for Toll (Cambodia) Co., Ltd (Trading as Toll Royal Railway) to operate the Cambodian Railway Network. However, on 29 March 2019, at the 18th Government-Private Sector Forum the government decided to take back the exclusive concession of railway service from the Royal Railway, one of 20 companies listed and operated under Royal Group. The railway service shifted under temporary management of the Ministry of Public Works and Transport. Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen stated he would request used locomotives from Japan, China, Thailand, and Vietnam to increase the country's rail transport.²¹⁵

A feasibility study was finished in October 2020 on railway connection between Phnom Penh and Bavet City, near the border with Vietnam. Bavet City is an important gateway of trade between Cambodia and Vietnam. The railway study was conducted by China Railway International Group Co., Ltd., but results were not released as of 7 October 2020.²¹⁶

Waterways

Cambodia has 3,700 km (2,299 miles) of waterways, mainly on the Mekong River.²¹⁷ The river originates in China, then flows through Myanmar, Thailand, and Laos before entering Cambodia, continuing onward through Vietnam to reach the ocean. Much of the river course occupies an elevated bed paralleled by natural levees. The Mekong River is navigable from the sea by small ocean-going vessels as far as Phnom Penh. Shallow draft boats are necessary further upstream, and the northern Mekong River area of Cambodia remains relatively undeveloped.²¹⁸

The Mekong River's water level has been dangerously shallow, due to a prolonged drought extending into its second year, from 2019-2020. The Mekong River, which flows 4,350km (2,703 mi.) through China, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam, supports the livelihoods of an estimated 60 million people.

Rainfall in the Lower Mekong Basin has fallen drastically, influenced by El Niño, the warm phase of the El Niño – Southern Oscillation weather cycle. Only 397mm of rainfall was received in the first six months of 2020 – a 36%

decrease from 2019, and a 62% decrease from 2018. Hydropower dams upstream in China are also harming the river ecology, including the monsoon floods vital to fisheries and agriculture. Per Marc Goichot, a freshwater systems expert with The World Wildlife Fund, the accumulative effects were irrevocably changing the Mekong. “Once you reach a threshold, it’s too late to get it back,” Goichot says. “The river will re-adapt, but it will be a different river, and the entire relationship to the river will have to be reinvented and that could have huge costs for the most vulnerable.” In August 2020, the Mekong River Commission (MRC) recommended downstream countries ask China to release more water from its dam storage.²¹⁹

During the lower Mekong Basin’s severe drought in 2019, China’s upper basin received high rainfall and snowmelt, but China’s upstream dams restricted nearly all of the record rainfall and snowmelt from going downstream. China is impounding much more water than it ever has in the past. Since 2012, China’s dams collectively impounded considerably more water than in the previous 20-year period, and also began restricting much more water than they released. For six months in 2019, dams in China held back so much water that they entirely prevented the annual monsoon-driven rise in river level at Chiang Saen, Thailand, which is a first in the modern record-keeping era.²²⁰

Schools

Cambodia has made incredible progress in children’s education in the last two decades. The number of children enrolled in primary education increased from 82% in 1997 to more than 97% by 2018. Since 2007, the number of children enrolled in preschool programs has more than doubled. But despite this progress, only 43% of children aged 3 to 5 years were enrolled in early childhood education in 2018.

There are other significant challenges, including many children not reaching age-appropriate learning standards. Only 27% of 3- to 5-year-olds are on track in literacy and numeracy, almost 25% of children in Grade 3

cannot write any words in a dictation test, and 55% of schoolchildren will have dropped out of school by 17 years of age.²²¹

Children with disabilities are twice as likely to be out of school compared to children without disabilities, and their educational prospects lessen as they age. For adolescents with disabilities, only 4% have completed lower secondary education, compared to 41% of their non-disabled peers.²²²

The constitution includes compulsory education, with all eligible students having free access to education for nine years. However, the social service is not widely enforced, and low student attendance persists in rural areas as students may have to help families cultivate the fields. The education system also faces challenges with staffing enough qualified teachers, which is exacerbated by low teacher salaries.²²³

It has been a long road of reclaiming progress in education since the Khmer Rouge, officially the Communist Party of Kampuchea, largely destroyed the education system when it ruled from 1975-1979. Under the Khmer Rouge, nearly 2 million people were killed by mass executions or forced labor, with educated persons particularly targeted for systematic elimination. Teachers, students, doctors, and even those who simply wore glasses were targeted and often murdered. During the Khmer Rouge rule, 90% of schools were closed or destroyed. According to the University of Phnom Penh, out of 1,000 academics, only 87 survived.²²⁴

Over the last four decades, education levels and literacy rates have slowly been climbing back up. In 2019, the adult literacy rate was 82.5%, and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MoEYS) projects it will rise to 95.7% in 2030.²²⁵ Cambodia is aiming to meet by 2030 the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4 – Education – which is to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.²²⁶ MoEYS embraced SDG 4 verbatim in its Education Strategic Plan, 2019-2023, as one of its two overarching policies. The second stated overarching policy is to ensure effective leadership and management of education officials

at all levels. MoEYS is working toward SDG 4 by collaborating with relevant stakeholders to increase skills training in priority areas, and by introducing digital education in response to the direction of Cambodia's digital economy. According to the 2030 Roadmap to Cambodia's SDG 4, Education, which was approved by MoEYS in 2019, five policy priorities are:

1. All girls and boys have access to quality early childhood care and education and pre-primary education, and complete free, equitable and quality basic education (primary and lower-secondary) with relevant and effective learning outcomes;
2. All girls and boys complete upper-secondary education with relevant learning outcomes, and a substantial number of youth have increased access to affordable and quality technical and vocational education;
3. Ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university;
4. All youth and adults achieve literacy and numeracy, and learners in all age groups have increased life-long learning opportunities; and
5. Governance and management of education improves at all levels.²²⁷

Disaster Risk Reduction in the Education Sector

Disaster risk reduction is becoming a growing part of school curriculum. In the National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction, the education sector is involved in two of the six components, providing a framework for school safety efforts in Cambodia. Various initiatives have been implemented, including integrating disaster risk reduction in Grade 8's earth science and geography subjects and developing school construction guidelines. A child-friendly school policy has also been issued, which promotes child's basic rights, and emphasizes child-centered disaster risk reduction and school safety initiatives. Several initiatives were implemented under the ASEAN Safe Schools Initiative (ASSI).

ASSI started in Cambodia in September 2014 with Plan International Cambodia as the lead agency of the consortium. Plan International Cambodia partnered with the local NGO Padek to improve outreach to rural areas highly prone to floods and storms.²²⁸ Under ASSI, Plan International Cambodia conducted a school safety program from 2012-2017, and Save the Children developed disaster risk reduction materials for school curricula.²²⁹

According to the MoEYS' strategic education plan, schools can use improvement funds for making provisions for natural disaster management, as part of an effort to increase financial allocations linking budget to education policies, in support of government policies and economic enhancement. Primary education also has a policy goal of developing a disaster management plan in 2020, in coordination with the Department of Construction (DoC) and Department of Materials and State Property (DMSP).²³⁰

Disaster risk reduction and knowledge of the mobile phone-based early warning system, EWS1294, is promoted through schools as well as broadcast media.²³¹ Photo 3 depicts educational materials in the Khmer language on EWS 1294, Cambodia's mobile phone-based early warning system.²³²

In the "Strengthening School Preparedness for Tsunamis in Asia and the Pacific" project, in which 18 countries have actively participated from 2017-2018, including Cambodia,²³³ schools received training for and facilitation of disaster preparedness school drills. Since Cambodia's risk from a tsunami is low, the project is focused more toward strengthening school preparedness for multi-hazard risks in the country.²³⁴

Funded by Japan and implemented by UNDP and Save the Children, the project has conducted multi-hazard drills in at least 15 schools in the coastal provinces of Sihanoukville and Koh Kong, which are regularly threatened by storms, tidal flooding and storm surges. Moreover, the risk of coastal flooding in Cambodia is increasing with the rise of the global mean sea level.²³⁵ The drills were focused on applying disaster management



Photo 3: Mobile Phone Based Early Warning Systems Educational Materials in the Khmer Language

plans developed by the schools themselves, with UNDP and Save the Children in support. In addition to disaster simulations, activities also encompass teacher and staff training on how to assess and prepare schools for disaster, using a training of trainers model where school safety disaster management committees are formed and teachers develop standard operating procedures.

In 2019, UNDP assisted the Disaster Management Unit of MoEYS in developing standard curriculum for Training of Trainer on School Safety and disaster preparedness in Cambodia.²³⁶ “Schools, along with temples, are key means through which communities receive information and instruction on disaster preparedness,” said Muhibuddin Usamah, disaster management specialist at UNDP Cambodia.²³⁷ These and other emergency preparedness drill involving students and teachers are part of a national strategy to mainstream climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction into their activities.²³⁸

Communications

The Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications is responsible for the oversight of telecommunications and the postal system throughout the country. The ministry has regulations in place for HF Radio, UHF/ VHF/ HF radio (handheld, base and mobile), UHF/ VHF repeaters, GPS, and VSAT.²³⁹

The COVID-19 pandemic is negatively impacting telecommunications production and supply chains globally. Consumer spending on telecom devices and services has decreased due to economic impacts, and overall progress has moderated for improvements in all facets of the telecom industry, including mobile, fixed-line, broadband, submarine cable and satellite.²⁴⁰

Telephones

The Directorate of International Telecom is responsible for provision, management and promotion of international telecom services,

administration of international access numbers and provision of general information to callers.

The existing landline telephone network allows international calls, but has on average three downtime periods per year, of about 1-3 days each time. There are six mobile phone providers: 1) Cellcard (Mobitel/CamGSM), 2) Smart (Smart Axiata), 3) SeaTel, 4) qb (Cadcomms), 5) MetFone (Viettel Cambodia), and 6) CooTel.²⁴¹

Subscriptions to landline (fixed line) telephones are very limited, with approximately 0.54 subscription per 100 inhabitants in 2018, which compares to a world rate of 12.63 per 100. However, mobile telephone use is widespread, being nearly present in urban areas and rapidly spreading in rural areas. Cambodia has an estimated 119.49 mobile telephone subscriptions per 100 inhabitants in 2018, which compares to a world rate of 104.01 per 100.²⁴²

Internet Access

Cambodia's internet connection comes through a fiber optic cable coming from Hong Kong, Vietnam, and Thailand. There are more than 10 private companies that provide internet through the fiber optic network. Major internet service providers (ISPs) in Cambodia include EZECOM, ONLINE, MEKONGNET, WinCAM, CityLink, and Chuanwei.²⁴³

Among Cambodia's population, some 40% use the internet, compared to the world internet-use rate of 50%. The country has 1.02 fixed (wired)-broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, compared to the world rate of 14.15 per 100.²⁴⁴ Approximately 27.8% of individuals have a computer as of 2017.²⁴⁵ Data indicates internet use is gender equitable – 40% of individuals use the internet, breaking down to 40% of males and 40% of females using the internet.²⁴⁶

Mass Media

The Directorate of Frequency Management and Licensing is responsible for the administration of operating and radio communication licenses, radio operator certifications, approval of telecommunications

contractors, telecommunications equipment licensing services, telecommunications inspection services, and allocation of radio frequencies.

Cambodia has a mixture of state-owned, joint public-private, and privately owned broadcast media. As of 2019, there are 27 television broadcast stations, with most operating on multiple channels, including 1 state-operated station broadcasting from multiple locations, and 11 stations either jointly operated or privately owned with some broadcasting from several locations. Multi-channel cable and satellite systems are available.

There are 84 radio broadcast stations, including one state-owned broadcaster with multiple stations and a large mixture of public and private broadcasters, one international broadcaster, 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).²⁴⁷

In Cambodia, 42.6% of households have a radio, and 66.6% of households have a television, per 2017 data.²⁴⁸

Post

The state-owned mail service provider is the Cambodia Post, which provides national and international mail services. However, the COVID-19 pandemic interrupted Cambodia's international mail service for approximately five months. Cambodia Post notified customers on 18 April 2020 that it had suspended mail to all countries due to the spread of COVID-19. The pandemic had almost completely interrupted air transportation. Flights via Thai Airways, Dragon Air, Malay Air, and ANA air were suspended.²⁴⁹ However, other reports stated the Cambodia Post had suspended all international shipments a month earlier, on 12 March 2020. Cambodia Post resumed limited express delivery on 3 August. International mail services resumed to at least 26 countries, primarily in Asia, Europe, and North America. Operations resumed after the company partnered with a new air carrier, with mailing rates increasing by US\$8 per kilogram (by \$3.64

per pound) for the duration of COVID-19.²⁵⁰

Courier can be used for speedier delivery, with EMS having branches at every major post office in the country. DHL and Fed Ex are present in major cities such as Phnom Penh, Siem Reap and Sihanoukville.²⁵¹

The Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications has reviewed a draft law in July 2020, which will expand regulation to all courier services and all delivery services, including those of online products, providing the Cambodian government with more effective control of licensed companies and tax revenue. There are more than 40 postal service providers licensed by the ministry, while additional entities operate unlicensed. The law is expected to be finalized by the end of 2020.²⁵²

Utilities

Power

In Cambodia, approximately 91.6% of the population had access to electricity in 2018, which reflected remarkable improvement over the previous several years.²⁵³ Some 89% of the population had electricity access in 2017, up significantly from 77% in 2016, 69% in 2015, and 56% in 2014.²⁵⁴

Fossil fuels, such as coal and petroleum products, are imported. Diversification of power sources in Cambodia has been shifting from oil-based power plants to hydropower and coal power plants.

Cambodia still imports electricity due to seasonal factors. Hydropower generation usually declines during the dry seasons due to the lack of water. As a result, Cambodia needs to import electricity from neighboring countries such as Viet Nam, Thailand, and Lao PDR.

Biomass in Cambodia consists of firewood and biogas based on animal dung and is mainly burned in rural areas. Charcoal is also used in the residential sector, especially in these rural areas.²⁵⁵

Water and Sanitation

Access to potable water has been steadily increasing for the Cambodia's population, estimated to be 16.9 million people as of July 2020.²⁵⁶ In 2017, 4.2 million people had access to piped water and 8.5 million had access to non-piped drinking water. This is a significant increase over 2000, when 0.76 million had access to piped and 5.6 million had access to non-piped. Similar gains have been made in sanitation. In 2017, 2.3 million used the sewer and 8.2 million used septic, whereas in 2000 only 1.4 million total used sewer, septic or latrine.²⁵⁷

Flooding during the rainy season, infrastructure problems, and inadequate financial and human resources create water and sanitation problems in Cambodia. A master plan is needed for the wastewater management and related infrastructure of each town and urban area throughout Cambodia. The Royal Government of Cambodia's National Action Plan aims for every Cambodian to have access to water, sanitation and hygiene by 2025.²⁵⁸

The Ministry of Public Works and Transport is responsible for drainage, sewerage, wastewater treatment, solid waste management and roads. Within that ministry, two relevant departments are the Road Infrastructure the Sub-national Public Infrastructure and Engineering Departments. In regard to planning, development and management of wastewater treatment, other relevant ministries include the:

- Ministry of Environment - Environmental planning, monitoring of effluent discharged to waterways & water drains, involvement in master plans;
- Ministry of Interior and Municipalities - Involvement in master plans, operation and maintenance of wastewater treatment system;
- Ministry of Economics and Finance - allocating budgets.²⁵⁹

HEALTH

Building on the stability and security following the end of decades of conflict in the country, Cambodia has experienced success in improving health outcomes. These successes were due to strong economic growth in the country and increased government spending on public health care increasing health system capacity. Additionally, Cambodia's economic growth and poverty reduction has provided the means to implement reforms and improvement in socioeconomic infrastructure including access to health care and making gains to achieve upper middle-income country status by 2030. These resources are important and timely as Cambodia's health system is currently facing a dual challenge of the on-going burden of non-communicable disease as well as an increasing COVID-19 epidemic associated with communicable disease.²⁶⁰

Cambodia achieved most of its Millennium Development Goals health-related targets ahead of schedule before the end of 2015 and made considerable improvements to health outcomes of the population.²⁶¹ The country's consistent economic growth and poverty reduction have played a large role in the life expectancy increase and quality of life improvement for the population.²⁶²

In spite of the progress, the country still has significant challenges with regard to health care, primarily as it works toward universal health coverage and the improvement of the quality of care and equitable distribution of health benefits across population groups in spite of the social, economic and environmental factors affecting health in the country.²⁶³ Additional challenges to the health care sector include:

- Maternal and childhood mortality, especially neonatal mortality which remains relatively high compared to other countries in the region.
- Malnutrition (acute and chronic) among women and children which impacts health and development of cognitive abilities.

- An increase in incidence of teenage pregnancy (age 15-19 years).
- HIV transmission among marginalized populations.
- Low Tuberculosis detection rate coupled with high incidence and mortality rates.
- Persistence of Artemisinin-resistant falciparum malaria parasites.
- Increase of prevalence of non-communicable diseases in an aging population and urbanization causing challenge to structure and model of health care system.
- Burden of mental health disorders.
- Growing threat of emerging and re-emerging infectious disease.
- Potential risks to health from environmental and climate change challenges.²⁶⁴

Health Care System Structure

The Cambodian health care system is comprised of both public and private sectors, including for-profit and not-for-profit health organizations. The Ministry of Health (MOH) is mandated by the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) to lead and manage the entire health sector in the country. The MOH began implementing health sector reform in 1994 with the main objective to improve and extend primary health care through the implementation of a district-based health system approach. At that time, Cambodia's first Master Plan for Health Development was produced and implemented, and it provided strategic direction for the rehabilitation and development of the health system for the years 1994-1996. Additionally, the Policy Guidelines for Strengthening District Health System was developed. Both documents were guided by previous health policies, plans, and guidelines.

Cambodia's Third Health Strategic Plan (HSP3) is currently in place and it is the strategic management tool for the Ministry of Health to

effectively and efficiently utilize the country's resources to translate health strategies into action providing a framework for strengthening operations in the public and private health sector, addressing priorities and ensuring consistent application across implementation programs. Key features of the gains in health and well-being of the population include:

- Increasing financial risk protection in accessing health care
- Increasing Health Service delivery
- Promoting governance and accountability in the health sector

The Health Development Goals for the country include:

- Improving reproductive health and reducing maternal, newborn and child mortality and malnutrition,
- Reducing morbidity and mortality due to mainly communicable diseases,
- Reducing morbidity and mortality due to non-communicable diseases and other public health problems, and
- Making the health system more accountable and responsive to the health needs of the population.²⁶⁵

Figure 7 shows the three levels of the Public Health Care System.²⁶⁶



Figure 7: Three Levels of the Cambodian Public Health System

Health Strategies and Surveillance

The vision for the Health Strategic Plan 2016-2020 is, 'All people in Cambodia have better health and wellbeing, thereby contributing to sustainable socio-economic development.' In this final year of the Plan, Cambodia reports significant progress with regard to expanded health infrastructure and increased health coverage. Additionally, Cambodia achieved health-related Millennium Development Goals ahead of schedule.

Improvements in access and coverage were bolstered by substantial investments in public health infrastructure, expanded road infrastructure, an increase in household capacity to pay and the availability of private health providers.

Some challenges to access to health care include cultural and language differences, isolated and scattered villages, and communes with limited transportation to towns especially during the raining seasons. A Health Coverage Plan was developed as part of the Health Strategic Plan to provide a framework to account for quality of care and availability of resources for the entire population.²⁶⁷

The Health Sector Strategic Plan for Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) Prevention and

Control in the Health Sector (2021-2025) was developed and implemented to build sustainable and cost-effective systems for health through integration and effective linkage of HIV/STI services with other related services within the health facilities and in the community. Importantly, it aims to reduce the number of HIV infections from 2,300 per year (the 2010 baseline) to less than 250 per year in 2025.²⁶⁸

The World Health Organization (WHO) has also partnered with the Government of Cambodia and has identified four strategic priorities for its Country Cooperation Strategy (CCS), which provides a framework for partnering to achieve the

2030 Agenda for Strategic Development with specific tools and strategies for implementation. Progress toward the health sections of the Millennium Development Goals has been marked. Cambodia has achieved most of the MDGs with the exception of some goals which were slightly under target. Figure 8 shows the achievements, with green indicating significant success over and above the target.²⁶⁹

Communicable Diseases

Cambodia is burdened with the following communicable diseases:

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19)

In the first 100 days of the global COVID-19 pandemic where 2.5 million cases were reported, Cambodia was able to contain community spread by utilizing a health security system it had been developing over the last 10 years.²⁷⁰ Cambodia's first reported COVID-19 case was 2 January

2020. The Government of Cambodia quickly and efficiently responded to the pandemic by implementing a whole of government, whole of society approach including accurate and timely diagnoses, contact tracing, surveillance hotlines, identification of outbreak hot spots, and imposition of travel restrictions, and were thus able to effectively contain the spread in the country.²⁷¹ As of 22 November 2020, Cambodia had 0 confirmed deaths and 306 confirmed cases.²⁷²

Malaria

Malaria can be contracted year-round in Cambodia, especially in the western part of the country. It is spread by the female Anopheles mosquito's bite, which causes parasites to multiply in the liver, attacking red blood cells and resulting in fever, chills, sweats, and anemia.²⁷³

Tuberculosis

Tuberculosis (TB) is an airborne infection that

		Achievements	CMDG Targets
 Reduce child mortality	Infant mortality rate per 1000 live births (2014)	28	50
	Under-5 mortality rate per 1000 live births (2014)	35	65
	Measles immunization % coverage (2014)	79	90
 Improve maternal health	Maternal mortality ratio per 100 000 live births (2014)	170	250
	Skilled birth attendant % births (2014)	89	87
	Contraceptive use % married women aged 15-49 (2014)	56	60
 Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases	HIV prevalence % adults aged 15 to 49 years	0.6	0.4
	Malaria mortality rate per 100 000 population (2013)	0.08	0.8
	Notified cases of TB new and relapse (2014)	43 738	40 000
 Ensure environmental sustainability	Water (rural) % using improved drinking-water sources (2014)	59	50
	Sanitation (rural) % using improved sanitation facilities (2014)	41	33

Note: CMDG: Cambodia Millennium Development Goal

Figure 8: Cambodia's Health-Related Millennium Development Goals

attacks the lungs, and the risk of contracting it in Cambodia is high. Approximately two-thirds of all Cambodians carry the TB bacterium, one of the highest rates in the world, and some 13,000 Cambodians die annually from the disease.²⁷⁴ Symptoms include chest pain, fever, lack of appetite, and extreme fatigue. TB can be treated with antibiotics; however, some people develop untreatable infections of TB.²⁷⁵

Dengue

Dengue fever is a mosquito-borne disease contracted in Cambodia primarily during the rainy season (May – October), where standing water or garbage are found in both rural and urban areas. Transmitted through the bite of infected Aedes aegypti and Aedes albopictus female mosquitoes that feed during the daytime,²⁷⁶ dengue symptoms are often mistaken for the flu but progress to abdomen pain, high fever, and, in a small percentage of infected individuals, develops into a more serious form of the disease known as dengue hemorrhagic fever. Dengue can be fatal but can also lead to immunity from infections.²⁷⁷ Dengue spiked across Southeast Asia in 2019, increasing over 1000% in Cambodia that year. The serious outbreak in 2019 was part of “a regular cycle of every five to six years or 10 to 12 years” in tropical Asia, according to Huy Rekol, director of Cambodia’s National Centre for Parasitology, Entomology and Malaria Control, which is part of the Ministry of Health.²⁷⁸ Dengue rates in Cambodia subsided again in 2020, with 7,823 dengue cases including 9 deaths (case fatality rate, 0.12%) reported in Cambodia as of 10 September 2020. The number of cases reported was only 14% of the 56,617 cases reported in the same period in 2019. The number of cases reported weekly in 2020 remains within the normal range of cases reported from 2014 to 2018.²⁷⁹

HIV/AIDS

Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) is the most common cause of death for female

sex workers and their children who are often born infected. A dearth of drugs to treat patients with HIV/AIDS continues to be a challenge but campaigns in the country to combat the spread of the disease has successfully impacted the number of deaths over the last decade.²⁸⁰

Lower respiratory infection remains the number one cause of most premature death in Cambodia, although the percentage of people dying decreased by 39.9% from 2007-2017. HIV/AIDS was ranked number 3 in 2007 and, due to the programs in place, it fell in rank to number 12 by 2017, decreasing by 72.5%.²⁸¹

Non-Communicable Diseases

The population in Cambodia is aging, and becoming increasingly urban, necessitating a push to address treatment of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in the elderly and long-term care services for that population. NCDs are the largest cause of death in Cambodia. The rising number of deaths due to NCDs is evident in a look at data from 2000 where percentages doubled from 2000 to 2018. In 2000, 32% of deaths were due to NCDs, in 2013 numbers rose to 52%,²⁸² and in 2018, 64% of deaths were due to NCDs. Presently, one in four Cambodians dies before the age of 70 due to one of the primary NCDs, which include: cardiovascular disease, chronic respiratory disease, and cancer. Additionally, NCDs are causing a surge in the cost of healthcare and contributing to reduced productivity. The total burden of NCDs on the Cambodian economy is 5.97 trillion Cambodian riel (US\$1.5 billion) annually.²⁸³

NCDs impact not only populations’ health but also the high economic cost of health care to address the illnesses, and to deal with impacts of missed work due to illnesses impacting both individuals and the State. It is estimated that NCDs will result in over US\$21 trillion in lost economic output between 2011 and 2030 in low and middle-income countries.²⁸⁴

To combat some of the behaviors that contribute to NCDs, Cambodia ratified the

WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. Cambodia also enacted comprehensive laws on tobacco control, including health and picture warnings on packaging of tobacco, banning tobacco use in public and workspaces, and legislating bans on advertising, promoting, and sponsoring of tobacco products. Additionally, taxes were raised on alcohol to discourage and lessen use, green spaces and walking paths were increased in the country to encourage physical activity, and Cambodia has strengthened policies and guidelines for food safety and nutrition to combat unhealthy diet to prevent and control NCDs.²⁸⁵ The WHO's partnership with the Government of Cambodia's package of interventions for NCDs aims to avert 184,236 deaths and lead to almost 700,000 healthy life years gained over a 15-year period.²⁸⁶

The main NCDs and the determinants and risk factors that drive the development of these often preventable diseases are displayed in Figure 9.²⁸⁷

Training for Health Professionals

The Cambodian Health Sector struggles with a shortage of qualified health professionals, with only 1.4 doctors and 9.5 nurses and midwives for every 10,000 people. These ratios are below

the average of low and lower-middle income countries in the East Asia and Pacific region, which averages 9 doctors and 19 nurses for every 10,000 persons. Additionally, doctors in the country primarily work at secondary and tertiary facilities, while nurses and midwives staff primary care facilities. To aid in these challenges, the World Bank's Executive Board of Directors has approved a US\$15 million dollar credit from the International Development Association to strengthen Cambodia's pre-service education system for health care professionals with the Cambodia Strengthening Pre-Service Education System for Health Professionals Project.

This project will support the Human Resources Development Department of the Ministry of Health by empowering health professionals' governance of health professions which includes regulations and standardization of health care education, a National Competency based exit examination, technical assistance and knowledge exchanges within the profession. Additionally, the Project will support the development and delivery of competency-based training programs in six health professional programs: general medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, nursing, midwifery, and laboratory. Gender aspects and social inclusiveness will be integrated in the development and implementation of these training programs.²⁸⁸

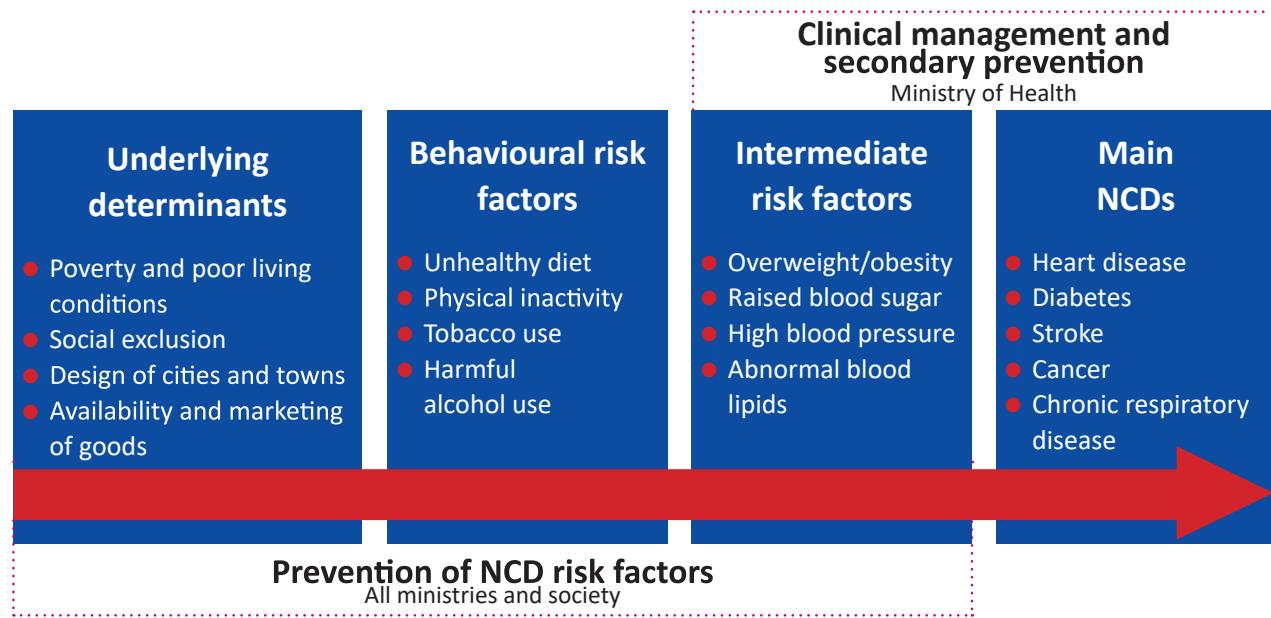


Figure 9: Determinants of NCDs and Responsibilities for Response

WOMEN, PEACE, AND SECURITY

Women and girls in Cambodia continue to suffer from physical, psychological, sexual, and economic violence across all divisions of society including income, culture, and class. They also face additional barriers with access to human rights protection and justice, and often are victims of additional violence due to disabilities, health status, sexual orientation, job status or type of work, and religion. The country has implemented many plans and programs and partnered with organizations to combat these challenges over recent decades, yet implementation of these laws and policies remain a challenge.²⁸⁹

October 2020 marked the 20th anniversary of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (UNSCR 1325) on women, peace and security, which aims to affirm the important role women play in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peace negotiations, peace building, peacekeeping, humanitarian response and equally important, in the post-conflict reconstruction, maintenance and promotion of peace and security in their countries and communities. The Resolution also raises concerns to all parties to incorporate gender perspectives into UN peace and security efforts and incorporate special measures to protect women from gender-based violence, including rape and other forms of sexual abuse in armed conflict situations. In 2013, Cambodia, along with eight other members of ASEAN endorsed the Declaration of Commitment to end Sexual Violence in Conflict toward addressing the pillars of the UNSCR 1325.²⁹⁰ However, this was not the first move toward putting protections into place against violence toward women in the country.

Cambodia ratified CEDAW in 1992 and in 1993, also integrated the principle of equal rights for women into the Constitution and created the Ministry of Women's Affairs (MOWA), to achieve the goals of obtaining equality for men and

women. While implementation in the country developed slowly, efforts for gender equality continue to gain momentum. The country also developed a National Poverty Reduction Strategy Plan for 2003-2005 to address some of the issues facing women and then MoWA partnered with the Cambodia National Council for Women to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women in a second iteration of a Plan for 2006-2008. The 3rd Strategic Plan, Neary Rattanak III (2009-2013) centered on the economic empowerment of women, equality in education, legal protections, women's political participation, and important public health issues including HIV/AIDS prevention and care.²⁹¹

In recent years, the Government continued to pursue the achievement of the Cambodian Millennium Development Goals by prioritizing the elimination of violence against women as a main goal by all state, private and civil society actors. It plans to achieve this by implementing Rectangular Strategies, Phase I, II, and III National Strategic Development Plans, Legal and Judicial Reforms, sectoral policies and programs, including the Village Commune Safety Policy and the third criteria institution of “no prostitution, no trafficking of women and children and no domestic violence.”

Significant data has been collected regarding violence against women in the country, with domestic violence counting as the most widespread and undocumented. Domestic violence, rape and sexual violence, and violence against women with increased risk, are their three priority areas. Trafficking in persons is listed as a serious problem affecting women and girls in the country, but it was not listed as a priority problem in the 2014-2018 National Action Plan.²⁹²

Cambodia has been identified as an origin, destination, and transit country for trafficked persons. Cambodians are trafficked throughout

the region and abroad. In October 2004, a Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation against Trafficking in Persons in the Greater Mekong Subregion was signed in Yangon, as a regional agreement between Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam. The MOU launched the Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking, better known as the COMMIT Process (COMMIT). COMMIT aimed to provide a “sub-regional institutional framework for counter-trafficking initiatives that has high-level political backing” and focused on five key areas: policy and cooperation; legal frameworks, law enforcement and justice; protection, recovery, and reintegration; preventive measures and vulnerability reduction; and monitoring, evaluation, and anti-human trafficking data systems.²⁹³

The 2008 Law on the Suppression of Human

Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation criminalized sex and labor trafficking, and it prescribed penalties of 7 to 15 years imprisonment in Cambodia. These penalties are the same as those applied to other serious crimes such as rape, that were applied to sex trafficking and served as the guiding framework for efforts to combat trafficking in the National Action Plan (NAP) 2014-2018. The COMMIT Process increased the visibility of human trafficking as a serious issue for governments and the need to involve UN agencies and civil society to work together to combat the problem.²⁹⁴ Additionally, regarding Trafficking in Persons and in acknowledgment of the growing prevalence of the practice in the region, ASEAN member states, including Cambodia, signed the ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (ACTIP) in November 2015.²⁹⁵



Photo source: Kelly Warfield

Photo 4: Siem Reap, Cambodia

CONCLUSION

In the last two decades, Cambodia has achieved remarkable economic growth. The poverty rate has decreased; however, a significant portion of the population remains at high risk of falling back into poverty from a shock of any kind whether it be a disaster, a pandemic, economic change, or other stressor. Undernutrition remains a public health concern and limited access for the poor to education and health services and low levels of investment in public infrastructure further perpetuate food insecurity and undernutrition. In an effort to integrate food security and nutrition actions into the Government's subnational development and investment planning process, NGOs have conducted field missions to better understand current development priorities as well as local responses to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.²⁹⁶

Cambodia experiences floods, regular drought, and damaging storms due to its geographic and climate conditions.²⁹⁷ Cambodia's National Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2019-2020²⁹⁸ also recognizes hydro-meteorological hazards, disease outbreaks, fires, and technological hazards as potential triggers of disasters.²⁹⁹ With regular monsoon flooding in the Mekong and Tonlé Sap basin, and localized drought in the plains, rural populations and agriculture-based livelihoods are at significant risk.³⁰⁰ The floodplains along the Mekong are more exposed to river flooding, whereas the mountain ranges have a higher risk of localized landslides and flash flooding.³⁰¹

Climate change has impacts on Cambodia's population, infrastructure, economy, and food security. The apparent shift of climatic phenomena toward the extremes requires adaptation that may be beyond the reach of subsistence farmers who cannot unilaterally change seeds/seedlings, fertilizers, water sources or other technical inputs. Thus, Cambodia's entire food system faces long-range disruption from the changing climate. Approximately 90% of the population engages in agricultural

activities, with approximately 80% of the population relying on subsistence crops.³⁰² When routine, large-scale climatic events like El Niño-La Niña cycles are exacerbated by sea temperature and level rises, and shifting weather patterns, subsistence-reliant communities are badly affected. The 2015 El Niño drove a two-year drought that saw more than 2.5 million Cambodians severely impacted by water shortages, crop failures and livestock die-offs.³⁰³ Meanwhile, the same long-range changes can cause more frequent and worse Mekong River floods that damage infrastructure and inflict human and animal casualties.³⁰⁴

In addition to the aforementioned hazards, the effects of the Mekong River damming have restricted the flow of water upon which Cambodia relies on for agriculture, fisheries, and human water consumption. The damming has inundated communities and shocked the downstream ecology,³⁰⁵ and caused a decline in agriculture productivity.³⁰⁶

Disaster risk management in Cambodia falls under the National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM), the lead authority of the Royal Government of Cambodia. The main responsibility of NCDM is to facilitate and support the coordination of its member agencies and other stakeholders in Disaster Risk Management in accordance with the laws on Disaster Management. A 2015 Law on Disaster Management formalized the role of NDMC as the lead administrator and coordinator of disaster activities. In the event of a disaster in Cambodia needing international assistance, the 2015 Disaster Management Law outlines that, upon the request of NCDM, the government would appeal to the international community for assistance. Since 2000, USAID has provided nearly \$13 million in disaster response, preparedness, and risk reduction assistance in Cambodia. It is important to understand disaster response in the country to be better positioned to support and provide assistance during a disaster in the future.³⁰⁷

APPENDICES

DoD DMHA Engagements in the Past Five Years (FY 2015-2020)

The list below describes the DMHA Engagements that the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) has had with Cambodia in the last five years.

Idaho National Guard Subject Matter Expert Exchange in Cambodia, September 2019

Idaho National Guard Soldiers and Airmen participated in a subject-matter expert exchange from 16-20 September 2019 at the United Nations Peacekeeping Operations Center in Cambodia with members of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces (RCAF). Soldiers and Airmen spent the week training with members of Cambodia's peacekeeping directorate who are preparing to deploy to several countries as part of the National Center for Peacekeeping, Mines, and Explosive Remnants of War Clearance (NPMEC) program. Soldiers and Airmen from the Idaho National Guard conduct several subject-matter expert exchanges in Cambodia each year.³⁰⁸

Idaho National Guard Subject Matter Expert Exchange in Cambodia, September 2018

The Idaho National Guard sent Soldiers and Airmen to share skills and build relationships with Royal Cambodian Armed Forces (RCAF) soldiers in Kampong Speu Province, Cambodia, from 12-24 September 2018. The Subject Matter Expert Exchange was part of the National Guard's State Partnership Program, which has been facilitating the sharing of ideas, capabilities, and experiences between guardsmen and host countries for 25 years. Since 2009, the Idaho National Guard has participated in the program by sending Soldiers and Airmen to Cambodia several times each year. This year, engineer experts from the Idaho Army National Guard led a team of Cambodian officers and non-commissioned officers in the construction

of three footbridges within Kampong Speu Province. The project gave Cambodian soldiers a usable skillset for their upcoming UN peacekeeping mission.³⁰⁹

Idaho National Guard Subject Matter Expert Exchange in Cambodia, September 2017

A team of subject matter experts and senior leaders from the Idaho National Guard were in Cambodia from 9-17 September 2017 to work and learn with members of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces (RCAF). The mission was part of the National Guard's State Partnership Program and included members from both the Idaho Army and Air National Guards. During the subject matter expert exchange, Soldiers and Airmen experienced in medical, engineer, convoy, and legal operations interacted with Cambodian soldiers who were preparing to deploy to several countries with the United Nations' National Peacekeeping Mines and Explosive Remnants of War Clearance program. Soldiers from both armies and Airmen from the 124th Fighter Wing completed first aid and convoy operations classes together. Idaho and Cambodia have participated in the State Partnership Program together since 2009.³¹⁰

Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT), November 2016

U.S. and Royal Cambodian Navy (RCN) service members conducted the 7th annual Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) exercise in Cambodia at Ream Navy Base from 31 October until 4 November 2016. U.S. Sailors and Marines engaged in training with their RCN counterparts in the fields of security operations, force protection, small boat operations and maintenance, amphibious operations, communications, preventive medicine, and casualty assistance. The capstone event was a comprehensive field training exercise (FTX) wherein service members responded to a simulated natural disaster. Held consecutively

since 2010, CARAT Cambodia is a bilateral training exercise to increase cooperation and enhance maritime security between the U.S. and Cambodian navies.³¹¹

Pacific Angel 16 Humanitarian Assistance Mission, June 2016

The militaries of the U.S. and Cambodia conducted humanitarian assistance events and military to military subject matter expert exchanges from 6-18 June 2016, in Kampot Province, Cambodia, as part of Pacific Angel 2016. During this mission, the U.S. and Cambodian forces were joined by service members from Australia, Vietnam, and Thailand. They also worked with local non-governmental organizations to provide humanitarian assistance to the residents of Kampot Province.

Pacific Angel is a joint and combined humanitarian assistance mission conducted in various countries throughout the Indo-Asia-Pacific region with the active participation and leadership of the U.S. Air Force. In Cambodia, multinational engineers worked on reconstruction projects for four local schools and two health centers in the city of Kampot, and multinational medical service providers conducted health service outreach in the Tuek Chhou and Kampong Trach districts in Kampot Province. The subject matter expert exchanges focused on public health emergencies and humanitarian aid and disaster response. This was the fourth Pacific Angel event conducted in Cambodia since the series began in 2007.³¹²

Angkor Sentinel 2016, March 2016

U.S. and Cambodian forces conducted Angkor Sentinel 2016, an annual bilateral military exercise hosted by the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces (RCAF) and sponsored by the U.S. Army Pacific. It ran from 14-25 March 2016 at the Training School for Multinational Peacekeeping Forces in Kampong Speu Province, Cambodia. The 2016 exercise marked the seventh iteration of the exercise designed to collectively strengthen the two countries' humanitarian assistance

and disaster relief capabilities and improve military-to-military cooperation. The training agenda included practical exercises intended to foster exchange and opportunities for the two countries' militaries to learn about each other's tactics, techniques, and procedures, while strengthening relationships and building the foundation for future humanitarian assistance and disaster relief exercises.³¹³

Angkor Opening 2016, March 2016

Joint, interagency, and multinational sustainment experts gathered in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, for a week from 14 March 2016 for Angkor Opening 2016, an exchange and table top exercise (TTX) designed to build partnerships, interoperability, and readiness in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief port opening operations. The exercise, hosted by the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces (RCAF) and sponsored by the U.S. 8th Theater Sustainment Command (TSC) and the Cambodian National Committee for Maritime Safety (NCMS), was the first exchange of its kind between the organizations. Angkor Opening 16 also featured a military diver academic expert exchange at Cambodia's Sihanoukville Port to provide a cooperative understanding of partner nations military diver capabilities and missions.³¹⁴

Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT), November 2015

The U.S. Navy and Royal Cambodian Navy (RCN) conducted the 6th annual Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) Cambodia exercise from 16-20 November 2015 at and near the Royal Cambodian Ream Navy Base. CARAT Cambodia included events in port and at sea. Ashore, personnel conducted hands-on training in damage control, navigation, tactical combat casualty care (TCCC), force protection and visit, board, search, and seizure (VBSS) techniques. In its sixth consecutive year, the bilateral CARAT Cambodia exercise increases maritime security cooperation.³¹⁵

Humanitarian Mine Action Program, October 2015 – April 2016

A Humanitarian Mine Action (HMA) team within Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Company, 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III MEF of the U.S. Marine Corps sent EOD technicians and Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Defense (CBRN) specialists to Cambodia on 14 October 2015 to train the Cambodian Mine Action Center (CMAC) and Royal Cambodian Armed Forces (RCAF) National Authority of Chemical Weapons (NACW). The training event ran over the course of several months in three phases. The initial phase from 19 October to 6 November 2015, focused on Marine EOD and CBRN instructors training CMAC and NACW students. Phase two, starting 25 January 2016, was a “train the trainer” program. Phase three, from 20 April 2016, selected students from the phase one and two classes to be instructors. The U.S. government’s HMA program allows U.S. service members to work alongside members of RCAF to develop an indigenous mine action capability to help with explosive remnants of war.³¹⁶

Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 5's Civic Construction Action Detail (CCAD) Cambodia, July 2015

Seabees assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 5's Civic Construction Action Detail (CCAD) Cambodia attended two ribbon cutting ceremonies on 17 July 2015 to commemorate the completion of two construction projects. The new facilities at local health centers were built by the Seabees and members of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces (RCAF). The buildings immediately improved health and sanitation conditions at both health centers. The CCAD's mission was to execute engineering civic assistance projects, conduct skills exchanges with the host nation, and perform community relations events to help enhance shared capabilities and maintain relationships.³¹⁷

Angkor Sentinel 2015, March 2015

Angkor Sentinel 2015, an annual bilateral military exercise hosted by the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces (RCAF) and sponsored by the U.S. Army Pacific (USARPAC), ran from 6-20 March 2015 at the Training School for Multinational Peacekeeping Forces in Kampong Speu Province, Cambodia. The 2015 iteration of Angkor Sentinel was the largest to date with over 450 personnel from the U.S. and Cambodia. Events included planning and executing a battalion level command post exercise, engineering civic action projects, and executing a medical civic action program. The Angkor Sentinel series promotes military readiness and interoperability between U.S. Armed Forces and RCAF and is USARPAC's capstone security cooperation event with Cambodia. Angkor Sentinel began in 2010 and is conducted by the USARPAC and hosted by RCAF to build humanitarian assistance/disaster relief capability activities in Cambodia.³¹⁸

Royal Preah Khan, January 2015

U.S. Marines and the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces (RCAF) held Royal Preah Khan from 12 January 2015 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Royal Preah Khan is a simulated humanitarian assistance and disaster relief exercise focused on enhancing response capabilities through staff training, crisis action planning, a command post exercise and enhancing RCAF and Marine cooperation. The exercise allows the Royal Cambodian Gendarmerie and U.S. Marines to learn about how each other work.³¹⁹

Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT), October 2014

The Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Mustin (DDG 89) arrived in Cambodia to begin the fifth annual Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) Cambodia exercise that ran from 27-31 October 2014 at and near the Royal Cambodian Ream Navy Base. This iteration of CARAT Cambodia included three days of events in port and two days at sea. While in port, a variety of subject

matter expert exchanges, symposiums and community service projects allowed members of both navies to share best practices. In its 20th year, CARAT is a series of bilateral naval exercises between the U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps and the armed forces of nine partner nations in South and Southeast Asia.³²⁰

International/Foreign Relations

Cambodia's government has diplomatic relations with many countries including its immediate neighbors, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam, its regional neighbors, China, India, South Korea, Singapore, and Australia, and import/export partners such as the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, and Canada. The government is a member of many international organizations including the United Nations, the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund. The country is also a member of Association of Southeast Asian Nations and will take over chairmanship in 2022.

Thailand and Vietnam are closely linked to Cambodia due to their shared borders bolstered by trade relationships, but have been complicated by negotiations over maritime and inland boundaries and refugee issues.

China

China and Cambodia celebrated their 60th anniversary of diplomatic ties in 2018. China has made significant investments in Cambodian infrastructure with Chinese firms reportedly investing over \$1.6 billion to build six dams in the country and pledging an additional \$4 billion yuan (US\$588 million) in aid from 2019-2021.³²¹

Despite COVID-19 concerns, Cambodia went ahead with a two-week military exercise with China from 15-31 March 2020. The third annual "Golden Dragon" exercise had a combined force of 3,000 troops under the theme of "counter-terrorism and humanitarianism." Occurring in Cambodia's Kampot province, the drill included training in the use of tanks, armored vehicles, spy devices, and demining equipment. The 2020

exercise was an expansion from 2019, when 250 Chinese and 2,500 Cambodian military personnel participated, marking the largest joint Cambodia-China military drills to be held on Cambodian soil since Cambodia suspended annual exercises with the U.S. and Australia in 2017.³²²

United States

The U.S. is an important strategic partner of Cambodia with U.S. foreign direct investment (FDI) in Cambodia (stock) at \$187 million in 2018 (latest data available).³²³

In 2017, Cambodia cancelled the Angkor Sentinel exercise with the U.S., which had run seven consecutive years. The Defense Ministry claimed it was too busy preparing for local elections that year to participate in the exercise, though there are concerns Cambodia is growing increasingly closer to China.³²⁴

Japan

Japan was Cambodia's largest donor from 1992-2015 providing over \$2 billion in development assistance primarily for infrastructure such as road development, stable electric systems and IT development. Additionally, in April 2018 the two countries signed a \$4.6 million agreement and \$86 million loan for economic and electricity transmission projections in Phnom Penh.³²⁵

In October 2020, Cambodia and Japan pledged to strengthen military cooperation, including capacity building and experience sharing. Japan promised to help build capacity in Cambodian armed forces to deal with disasters.³²⁶

South Korea

South Korea provided over US\$880 million in development loans for roads and other infrastructure to Cambodia from 2001 to 2017.³²⁷

Australia

Cambodia and Australia established diplomatic relations in 1952 and the countries have a bilateral market access agreement which was established in October 2004. Cambodia's

products are granted tariff free access in Australia due to its least developed country status and the trade between the two countries was valued at A\$609 million (US\$ 433 million) in 2018. The countries also partner in combatting trafficking of people, irregular migration, child sex tourism, narcotics trafficking, fraud and terrorism. There is an Australian Federal Police liaison office in Phnom Penh that assists Cambodian law enforcement agencies with transnational crime.³²⁸

Participation in International Organizations

Cambodia participates in the following international organizations:

Asian Development Bank (ADB), ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), 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), IAEA, International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), Institute of Catastrophe Risk Management (ICRM), International Development Association (IDA), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), International Finance Corporation (IFC), International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRCS), International Labour Organization (ILO), International Monetary Fund (IMF), International Maritime Organization (IMO), International Criminal Police Organisation (INTERPOL), International Olympic Committee (IOC), Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), International Organization for Standardization (ISO) correspondent, International Telecommunications Satellite Organization (ITSO), International Telecommunications Union (ITU), Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), International Organization of La Francophonie (OIF), Organisation for the Prohibition of

Chemical Weapons (OPCW), PCA, United Nations (UN), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), UN Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), Universal Postal Union (UPU), World Customs Organization(WCO), The 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 August 2020 include:³²⁹

United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS). African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), & United Nations Interim Security Forces for Abyei (UNISFA).

Force Protection/Pre-Deployment Information

The following information is provided for pre-deployment planning and preparations. Visit 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). All official travel and active duty personal travel 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.

Passport/Visa

Before entering Cambodia, you must ensure that your passport has at least 6 months validity.

U.S. citizens entering must acquire a tourist visa and have at least one blank passport page before entering. There are also entry/exit requirements related to COVID-19 in Cambodia which include quarantine information, testing requirements at traveler's cost and health insurance requirements. Information regarding COVID-19 related travel requirements are available on the U.S. Embassy in Cambodia website at: <https://kh.usembassy.gov/covid-19-information/>

General information for U.S. citizens' entry or exit requirements can also be found on the main page of the U.S. Embassy in Cambodia website or in person at:

Embassy of the Kingdom of Cambodia
4530 16th Street NW, Washington, DC 20011
Telephone: +1 202-726-7742
Fax: +1 202-726-8381
<https://kh.usembassy.gov/>

The following information is taken directly from the U.S. Department of State – Bureau of Consular Affairs' Country Information for the Kingdom of Cambodia.³³⁰

Safety and Security

Cambodia has a high 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 were 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 who are masquerading 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 \$20 and \$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 U.S. The Embassy has determined that many of these requests are fraudulent and the individuals making the requests use false identities.³³¹

Emergency Contact Information

American Citizens should call the Embassy as soon as is practical in the event of an arrest, death, hospitalization, or other emergency involving a U.S. citizen. In an emergency, Embassy personnel can assist in talking with medical personnel, police, or other officials on behalf of the U.S. citizen and his or her family. For emergencies during regular office hours (8:00am to 5:00pm, Monday through Friday) please call +855 23-728-402 / +855 23-728-051 / +855 23-728-234.

In the event of an emergency after hours, please call +855 23-728-000. Press 1 and then 0 to be transferred to the operator.

A duty officer is always available outside of normal office hours to assist American citizens with serious emergencies. U.S. citizens with emergencies should call the Embassy's main number, 023-728-000. Please note that routine matters such as visa inquiries or replacement pages for passports do not constitute emergencies.

Callers in the United States can also contact the U.S. Department of State's Office of Overseas Citizen Services toll free at 1-888-407-4747.³³²

Currency Information

The currency in Cambodia is the Cambodian Riel. The Kingdom of Cambodia imposes a restriction of entering with foreign currency amounts over US\$10,000 and any export of local currency (Riel) is prohibited. Foreign currency can be taken out of the country up to the limit declared at customs upon arrival.³³³

Travel Health Information

The 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 Table 6 is taken directly from the CDC website under the Travelers Health Section (<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/list/>).³³⁴

The following 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. If you are going to a high-risk area, 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 percent 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 step.state.gov.

Measles (for all travelers)	When traveling to Cambodia, travelers should ensure up-to-date measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine before travel as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infants (6 through 11 months old): 1 dose of measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine before travel. This dose does not count as the first dose in the routine childhood vaccination series. • People 12 months old or older, with no evidence of immunity or no written documentation of any doses: 2 doses of MMR vaccine before travel. The 2 doses must be given 28 days apart. • People 12 months old or older who have written documentation of 1 dose and no other evidence of immunity: 1 additional dose before travel, at least 28 days after the previous dose
Routine vaccines (for all travelers)	Make sure you are up-to-date on routine vaccines before every trip. These vaccines include the MMR vaccine, diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis vaccine, varicella (chickenpox) vaccine, polio vaccine, and your yearly flu shot.
Hepatitis A (for most travelers)	The CDC recommends this vaccine because you can get hepatitis A through contaminated food or water in Cambodia, regardless of where you are eating or staying.

Table 6: CDC Travel Health Information for Cambodia

Typhoid (for most travelers)	You can get typhoid through contaminated food or water in Cambodia. The CDC recommends this vaccine for most travelers, especially if you are staying with friends or relatives, visiting smaller cities or rural areas, or if you are an adventurous eater.
Hepatitis B (for unvaccinated travelers of all ages to Cambodia)	You can get hepatitis B through sexual contact, contaminated needles, and blood products, so the CDC recommends this vaccine if you might have sex with a new partner, get a tattoo or piercing, or have any medical procedures.
Japanese Encephalitis (for some travelers)	You may need this vaccine if your trip will last more than a month, depending on where you are going in Cambodia, and what time of year you are traveling. You should also consider this vaccine if you plan to visit rural areas in Cambodia or will be spending a lot of time outdoors, even for trips shorter than a month. Your doctor can help you decide if this vaccine is right for you based on your travel plans.
Malaria (for some travelers)	When traveling in Cambodia, you should avoid mosquito bites to prevent malaria. You may need to take prescription medicine before, during, and after your trip to prevent malaria, depending on your travel plans, such as where you are going, when you are traveling, and if you are spending a lot of time outdoors or sleeping outside. Present throughout the country, including in Siem Reap city. None in the city of Phnom Penh or at the temple complex at Angkor Wat.
Rabies (for some travelers)	Rabies can be found in dogs, bats, and other mammals in Cambodia, so the CDC recommends this vaccine for the following groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travelers involved in outdoor and other activities (such as camping, hiking, biking, adventure travel, and caving) that put them at risk for animal bites. • People who will be working with or around animals (such as veterinarians, wildlife professionals, and researchers). • People who are taking long trips or moving to Cambodia • Children, because they tend to play with animals, might not report bites, and are more likely to have animal bites on their head and neck.
Yellow Fever (for some travelers)	Required if traveling from a country with risk of YF virus transmission and ≥1 year of age, including transit >12 hours in an airport located in a country with risk of YF virus transmission. Note: Yellow fever vaccine availability in the U.S. is currently limited. If you need to be vaccinated before your trip, you may need to travel some distance and schedule your appointment well in advance. Find the clinic nearest you.

Table 6: CDC Travel Health Information for Cambodia (cont.)

Sendai Framework

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (Sendai Framework) was the first major agreement of the post-2015 development agenda and provides Member States with concrete actions to protect development gains from the risk of disaster.³³⁵ The information in this section is sourced directly from the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction website. The Framework outlines seven clear targets and four priorities for action to prevent new and reduce existing disaster risks:

The Seven Global Targets include:

- 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.
- 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.
- Reduce direct disaster economic loss in relation to global gross domestic product (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 the people by 2030.³³⁶

The Four Priorities of Action include:

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

The Sendai 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 over the next 15 years. It was adopted at the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Japan in 2015.³³⁷

The Sendai Framework is the successor instrument to the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters.³³⁸ Figure 10 shows the Sendai DRR Framework.³³⁹

Chart of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

2015-2030

Scope and purpose	Expected outcome	Goal	Targets
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	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	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	<p>Substantially reduce global disaster mortality by 2030, aiming to lower average per 100,000 global mortality between 2020-2030 compared to 2005-2015</p> <p>Substantially reduce the number of affected people globally by 2030, aiming to lower the average global figure per 100,000 between 2020-2030 compared to 2005-2015</p> <p>Reduce direct disaster economic loss in relation to global gross domestic product (GDP) by 2030</p> <p>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</p> <p>Substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020</p> <p>Substantially enhance international cooperation to developing countries through adequate and sustainable support to complement their national actions for implementation of this framework by 2030</p> <p>Substantially increase the availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster risk information and assessments to people by 2030</p>

Figure 10: UN Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030

Country Profile

The information in this Country Profile section is sourced directly from the CIA World Fact book for Cambodia. Additional numbers on country comparison to the world can be found by going directly to the CIA website (<https://www.cia.gov>).

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. 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 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 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.

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

Geographic coordinates: 13 00 N, 105 00 E

Map references: Southeast Asia

Area:

total: 181,035 sq km

land: 176,515 sq km

water: 4,520 sq km

country comparison to the world: 91

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
exclusive economic zone: 200 nm
contiguous zone: 24 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:

mean elevation: 126 m
lowest point: Gulf of Thailand 0 m
highest point: Phnum Aoral 1,810 m

Natural resources:

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

Land use:

agricultural land: 32.1% (2011 est.)
arable land: 22.7% (2011 est.) / permanent crops: 0.9% (2011 est.) / permanent pasture: 8.5% (2011 est.)
forest: 56.5% (2011 est.)
other: 11.4% (2011 est.)

Irrigated land:

3,540 sq km (2012)

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

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, Desertification, Endangered Species, Hazardous Wastes, Marine Life Conservation, Ozone Layer Protection, Ship Pollution, Tropical Timber 94, Wetlands, Whaling

signed, but not ratified: Law of the Sea

Geography - note:

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

Population:

16,926,984 (July 2020 est.)
country comparison to the world: 69

Nationality:

noun: Cambodian(s)
adjective: Cambodian

Ethnic groups:

Khmer 97.6%, Cham 1.2%, Chinese 0.1%, Vietnamese 0.1%, other 0.9% (2013 est.)

Languages:

Khmer (official) 96.3%, other 3.7% (2008 est.)

Religions:

Buddhist (official) 97.9%, Muslim 1.1%, Christian 0.5%, other 0.6% (2013 est.)

Age structure:

0-14 years: 30.18% (male 2,582,427/female 2,525,619)
 15-24 years: 17.28% (male 1,452,784/female 1,472,769)
 25-54 years: 41.51% (male 3,442,051/female 3,584,592)
 55-64 years: 6.44% (male 476,561/female 612,706)
 65 years and over: 4.59% (male 287,021/female 490,454) (2020 est.)

Dependency ratios:

total dependency ratio: 55.7
 youth dependency ratio: 48.2
 elderly dependency ratio: 7.6
 potential support ratio: 13.2 (2020 est.)

Median age:

total: 26.4 years
 male: 25.6 years
 female: 27.2 years (2020 est.)
 country comparison to the world: 153

Population growth rate:

1.4% (2020 est.)
 country comparison to the world: 80

Birth rate:

21.3 births/1,000 population (2020 est.)
 country comparison to the world: 70

Death rate:

7.3 deaths/1,000 population (2020 est.)
 country comparison to the world: 110

Net migration rate:

-0.3 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2020 est.)
 country comparison to the world: 115

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: 24.2% of total population (2020)
 rate of urbanization: 3.25% annual rate of change (2015-20 est.)

Major urban areas - population:

2.078 million Phnom Penh (capital) (2020)

Sex ratio:

at birth: 1.05 male(s)/female
 0-14 years: 1.02 male(s)/female
 15-24 years: 0.99 male(s)/female
 25-54 years: 0.96 male(s)/female
 55-64 years: 0.78 male(s)/female
 65 years and over: 0.59 male(s)/female
 total population: 0.95 male(s)/female (2020 est.)

Mother's mean age at first birth:

22.9 years (2014 est.)
 note: median age at first birth among women 25-29

Maternal mortality rate:

160 deaths/100,000 live births (2017 est.)
 country comparison to the world: 55

Infant mortality rate:

total: 43.7 deaths/1,000 live births
 male: 49.8 deaths/1,000 live births
 female: 37.3 deaths/1,000 live births (2020 est.)
 country comparison to the world: 30

Life expectancy at birth:

total population: 65.9 years
 male: 63.4 years
 female: 68.6 years (2020 est.)
 country comparison to the world: 189

Total fertility rate:

2.39 children born/woman (2020 est.)
country comparison to the world: 79

Contraceptive prevalence rate:

56.3% (2014)

Drinking water source:

improved:urban: 98.4% of population
rural: 77.8% of population
total: 80.3% of population
unimproved:urban: 1.6% of population
rural: 22.2% of population
total: 19.7% of population (2017 est.)

Current Health Expenditure:

5.9% (2017)

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: 55.5% of population
total: 65.7% of population
unimproved:urban: 0% of population
rural: 44.5% of population
total: 34.3% of population (2017 est.)

HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate:

0.5% (2018 est.)
country comparison to the world: 68

HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS:

73,000 (2018 est.)
country comparison to the world: 52

HIV/AIDS - deaths:

1,300 (2018 est.)
country comparison to the world: 53

Major infectious diseases:

degree of risk: very high (2020)
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)
country comparison to the world: 188

Children under the age of 5 years underweight:

24.1% (2014)
country comparison to the world: 21

Education expenditures:

1.9% of GDP (2014)
country comparison to the world: 170

Literacy:

definition: age 15 and over can read and write
total population: 80.5%
male: 86.5%
female: 75% (2015)

School life expectancy (primary to tertiary education):

total: 11 years
male: 11 years
female: 10 years (2008)

Unemployment, youth ages 15-24:

total: 1.1%
male: 1%
female: 1.2% (2016 est.)
country comparison to the world: 177

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	Transitional Authority in Cambodia) customary law, Communist legal theory, and common law International law organization participation: accepts compulsory ICJ jurisdiction with reservations; accepts ICCt jurisdiction
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	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
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	Suffrage: 18 years of age; universal
Independence: 9 November 1953 (from France) National holiday: Independence Day, 9 November (1953)	Executive branch: <i>Chief of State:</i> King Norodom Sihamoni (since 29 october 2004) <i>Head of Government:</i> Prime Minister Hun Sen (since 14 january 1985); Permanent Deputy Prime Minister Men Sam An (since 25 september 2008); Deputy Prime Ministers Sar Kheng (since 3 february 1992), Tea Banh, Gen., Hor Namhong, (since 16 july 2004), Bin Chhin (since 5 september 2007), Yim Chhai Ly (since 24 september 2008), Ke Kimyan (since 12 march 2009), Aun Pornmoniroth (since 24 september 2012), Prak Sokonn, Chea Sophara (since 5 april 2016) <i>Cabinet:</i> Council of Ministers named by the prime minister and appointed by the monarch <i>Elections/appointments:</i> 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
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 1999, 2008, 2014, 2018	Legislative branch: 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
Legal system: civil law system (influenced by the UN	

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 29 July 2018 (next to be held in 2023)
election results: Senate - percent of vote by party - CPP 96%, Funcinpec 2.4%, KNUP 1.6%; seats by party - CPP 58; composition - men 53, women 9, percent of women 14.5% National Assembly - percent of vote by party - CPP 76.9%, Funcinpec 5.9%, LDP 4.9%, Khmer Will Party 3.4%, other 8.9%; seats by party - CPP 125; composition - men 100, women 25, percent of women 20%; note - total Parliament of Cambodia percent of women 18.2%

Judicial branch:

Highest courts: 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 2019

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:

Cambodia National Rescue Party or CNRP [Khem Sokha] (dissolved by the Cambodian

Supreme Court in November 2017; formed from a 2012 merger of the Sam Rangsi Party or SRP and the former Human Rights Party or HRP [Khem Sokha, also spelled Kem Sokha])
Cambodian Nationality Party or CNP [Seng Sokheng]
Cambodian People's Party or CPP [Hun Sen]
Khmer Economic Development Party or KEDP [Huon Reach Chamroeun]
Khmer National Unity Party or KNUP [Nhek Bun Chhay]
Khmer Will Party [Kong Monika]
League for Democracy Party or LDP [Khem Veasna]
National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia or Funcinpec [Prince Norodom Ranariddh]

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:

Ambassador CHUM SOUNRY (since 17 September 2018)
chancery: 4530 16th Street NW, Washington, DC 20011
telephone: [1] (202) 726-7742
FAX: [1] (202) 726-8381

Diplomatic representation from the US:

chief of mission: Ambassador Patrick Murphy (since 23 October 2019)
telephone: [855] (23) 728-000
embassy: #1, Street 96, Sangkat Wat Phnom, Khan Daun Penh, Phnom Penh
mailing address: Unit 8166, Box P, APO AP 96546
FAX: [855] (23) 728-600

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

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

Economy - overview:

Cambodia has experienced strong economic growth over the last decade; GDP grew at an average annual rate of over 8% between 2000 and 2010 and about 7% since 2011. The tourism, garment, construction and real estate, and agriculture sectors accounted for the bulk of growth. Around 700,000 people, the majority of whom are women, are employed in the garment and footwear sector. An additional 500,000 Cambodians are employed in the tourism sector, and a further 200,000 people in construction. Tourism has continued to grow rapidly with foreign arrivals exceeding 2 million per year in 2007 and reaching 5.6 million visitors in 2017. Mining also is attracting some investor interest and the government has touted opportunities for mining bauxite, gold, iron and gems. Still, Cambodia remains one of the poorest countries in Asia, and long-term economic development remains a daunting challenge, inhibited by corruption, limited human resources, high income inequality, and poor job prospects. According to the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the percentage of the population living in poverty decreased to

13.5% in 2016. More than 50% of the population is less than 25 years old. The population lacks education and productive skills, particularly in the impoverished countryside, which also lacks basic infrastructure. The World Bank in 2016 formally reclassified Cambodia as a lower middle-income country as a result of continued rapid economic growth over the past several years. Cambodia's graduation from a low-income country will reduce its eligibility for foreign assistance and will challenge the government to seek new sources of financing. The Cambodian Government has been working with bilateral and multilateral donors, including the Asian Development Bank, the World Bank and IMF, to address the country's many pressing needs; more than 20% of the government budget will come from donor assistance in 2018. A major economic challenge for Cambodia over the next decade will be fashioning an economic environment in which the private sector can create enough jobs to handle Cambodia's demographic imbalance. Textile exports, which accounted for 68% of total exports in 2017, have driven much of Cambodia's growth over the past several years. The textile sector relies on exports to the United States and European Union, and Cambodia's dependence on its comparative advantage in textile production is a key vulnerability for the economy, especially because Cambodia has continued to run a current account deficit above 9% of GDP since 2014.

GDP (purchasing power parity):

\$64.21 billion (2017 est.)
\$60.09 billion (2016 est.)
\$56.18 billion (2015 est.)
note: data are in 2017 dollars
country comparison to the world: 104

GDP (official exchange rate):

\$22.09 billion (2017 est.)
GDP - real growth rate:
6.9% (2017 est.)
7% (2016 est.)
7% (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 20

GDP - per capita (PPP):

\$4,000 (2017 est.)

\$3,800 (2016 est.)

\$3,600 (2015 est.)

note: data are in 2017 dollars

country comparison to the world: 177

Gross national saving:

13.7% of GDP (2017 est.)

14.3% of GDP (2016 est.)

13.4% of GDP (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world: 139

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.)

GDP - composition, by sector of origin:

agriculture: 25.3% (2017 est.)

industry: 32.8% (2017 est.)

services: 41.9% (2017 est.)

Agriculture - products:

rice, rubber, corn, vegetables, cashews, cassava

(manioc, tapioca), silk

Industries:

tourism, garments, construction, rice milling,

fishing, wood and wood products, rubber,

cement, gem mining, textiles

Industrial production growth rate:

10.6% (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world: 11

Labor force:

8.913 million (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world: 56

Labor force - by occupation:

agriculture: 48.7%

industry: 19.9%

services: 31.5% (2013 est.)

Unemployment rate:

0.3% (2017 est.)

0.2% (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world: 2

Population below poverty line:

16.5% (2016 est.)

Household income or consumption by percentage share:

lowest 10%: 2%

highest 10%: 28% (2013 est.)

Budget:

revenues: 3.947 billion (2017 est.)

expenditures: 4.354 billion (2017 est.)

Taxes and other revenues:

17.9% (of GDP) (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world: 164

Budget surplus (+) or deficit (-):

-1.8% (of GDP) (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world: 97

Public debt:

30.4% of GDP (2017 est.)

29.1% of GDP (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world: 165

Fiscal year: calendar year

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

2.9% (2017 est.)

3% (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world: 129

Current account balance:

-\$1.871 billion (2017 est.)

-\$1.731 billion (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world: 162

Exports:

\$11.42 billion (2017 est.)

\$10.07 billion (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world: 85

Exports - partners:

US 21.5%, UK 9%, Germany 8.6%, Japan 7.6%, China 6.9%, Canada 6.7%, Spain 4.7%, Belgium 4.5% (2017)

Exports - commodities:

clothing, timber, rubber, rice, fish, tobacco, footwear

Imports:

\$14.37 billion (2017 est.)
\$12.65 billion (2016 est.)
country comparison to the world: 91

Imports - commodities:

petroleum products, cigarettes, gold, construction materials, machinery, motor vehicles, pharmaceutical products

Imports - partners:

China 34.1%, Singapore 12.8%, Thailand 12.4%, Vietnam 10.1% (2017)

Reserves of foreign exchange and gold:
\$12.2 billion (31 December 2017 est.)
\$9.122 billion (31 December 2016 est.)
country comparison to the world: 69

Debt - external:

\$11.87 billion (31 December 2017 est.)
\$10.3 billion (31 December 2016 est.)
country comparison to the world: 107

Exchange rates:

riels (KHR) per US dollar -
4,055 (2017 est.)
4,058.7 (2016 est.)
4,058.7 (2015 est.)
4,067.8 (2014 est.)
4,037.5 (2013 est.)

Electricity access:

population without electricity: 6 (2017)
electrification - total population: 49.8% (2016)
electrification - urban areas: 100% (2016)
electrification - rural areas: 36.5% (2016)

Electricity - production:

5.21 billion kWh (2016 est.)
country comparison to the world: 121

Electricity - consumption:

5.857 billion kWh (2016 est.)
country comparison to the world: 117

Electricity - exports:

0 kWh (2016 est.)
country comparison to the world: 116

Electricity - imports:

1.583 billion kWh (2016 est.)
country comparison to the world: 60

Electricity - installed generating capacity:

1.697 million kW (2016 est.)
country comparison to the world: 119

Electricity - from fossil fuels:

35% of total installed capacity (2016 est.)
country comparison to the world: 178

Electricity - from nuclear fuels:

0% of total installed capacity (2017 est.)
country comparison to the world: 61

Electricity - from hydroelectric plants:

63% of total installed capacity (2017 est.)
country comparison to the world: 27

Electricity - from other renewable sources:

2% of total installed capacity (2017 est.)
country comparison to the world: 136

Crude oil - production:

0 bbl/day (2018 est.)
country comparison to the world: 119

Crude oil - exports:

0 bbl/day (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 103

Crude oil - imports:

0 bbl/day (2015 est.)
country comparison to the world: 106

Crude oil - proved reserves:

0 bbl (1 January 2018 est.)

country comparison to the world: 115

Refined petroleum products - production:

0 bbl/day (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world: 127

Refined petroleum products - consumption:

45,000 bbl/day (2016 est.)

country comparison to the world: 108

Refined petroleum products - exports:

0 bbl/day (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world: 140

Refined petroleum products - imports:

43,030 bbl/day (2015 est.)

country comparison to the world: 86

Natural gas - production:

0 cu m (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world: 113

Natural gas - consumption:

0 cu m (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world: 129

Natural gas - exports:

0 cu m (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world: 78

Natural gas - imports:

0 cu m (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world: 102

Natural gas - proved reserves:

0 cu m (1 January 2014 est.)

country comparison to the world: 119

Carbon dioxide emissions from consumption of energy:

10.55 million Mt (2017 est.)

country comparison to the world: 104

Telephones - fixed lines:

total subscriptions: 88,157

subscriptions per 100 inhabitants: 1 (2018 est.)

country comparison to the world: 143

Telephones - mobile cellular:

total subscriptions: 19,417,123

subscriptions per 100 inhabitants: 118 (2018 est.)

country comparison to the world: 60

Telecommunication systems:

General assessment: well on its way to rollout 5G services, Chinese company Huawei dealing with the infrastructure for the 5G rollout; mobile-cellular phone systems are widely used in urban areas to bypass deficiencies in the fixed-line network; mobile-phone coverage is rapidly spreading in rural areas; competition among mobile operators strong; about 50% of Cambodians own at least one smart phone; in 2018, the MPTC began a free Wi-Fi service for visitors and residents of Phnom Penh, in selected parks around the city customers can access free Wi-Fi services; fixed broadband penetration is predicted to reach over 2% by 2023; in 2021, Cambodia hopes to launch its first communications satellite into orbit (2020)

Domestic: fixed-line connections stand at about 1 per 100 persons and declining; mobile-cellular usage, aided by competition among service providers, has increased to about 118 per 100 persons (2018)

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)

Note: the COVID-19 outbreak is negatively impacting telecommunications production and supply chains globally; consumer spending on telecom devices and services has also slowed due to the pandemic's effect on economies worldwide; overall progress towards improvements in all facets of the telecom industry - mobile, fixed-line, broadband, submarine cable and satellite - has moderated

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: 6,579,808

percent of population: 40% (July 2018 est.)

country comparison to the world: 74

Broadband - fixed subscriptions:

total: 166,200

subscriptions per 100 inhabitants: 1 (2018 est.)

country comparison to the world: 114

Military and security forces:

Royal Cambodian Armed Forces: High Command Headquarters, Royal Cambodian Army, Royal Khmer Navy, Royal Cambodian Air Force; Gendarmerie Royale Khmer (military police force responsible for internal security under Ministry of Interior); the National Counter Terrorism Committee; the National Committee for Maritime Security (performs Coast Guard functions and has representation from military and civilian agencies) (2019)

Military expenditures:

2.3% of GDP (2019)

2.2% of GDP (2018)

2.1% of GDP (2017)

2% of GDP (2016)

1.8% of GDP (2015)

country comparison to the world: 38

Military and security service personnel strengths:

assessments of the size of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces vary; approximately 115,000 total active troops (110,000 Army; 3,000 Navy; 1,000 Air Force); 10,000 Gendarmerie (2019 est.)

Military equipment inventories and acquisitions:

the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces are armed largely with older Chinese and Russian-origin equipment; it has received limited amounts of newer equipment since 2010 with China as the principal provider, followed by Ukraine (2019 est.)

Military deployments:

210 Central African Republic (MINUSCA);

180 Lebanon (UNIFIL); 290 Mali

(MINUSMA) (April 2020)

Military service age and obligation:

18 is the legal minimum age for compulsory and voluntary military service (2012)

Transportation:**National air transport system:**

number of registered air carriers: 4 (2020)

inventory of registered aircraft operated by air carriers: 10

annual passenger traffic on registered air carriers: 1,103,880 (2015)

annual freight traffic on registered air carriers: 2,301,260 mt-km (2015)

Civil aircraft registration country code prefix:

XU (2016)

Airports:

16 (2013)
country comparison to the world: 142

Airports - with paved runways:

total: 6 (2019)
2,438 to 3,047 m: 3
1,524 to 2,437 m: 2
914 to 1,523 m: 1

Airports - with unpaved runways:

total: 10 (2013)
1,524 to 2,437 m: 2 (2013)
914 to 1,523 m: 7 (2013)
under 914 m: 1 (2013)

Heliports:

1 (2013)

Railways:

total: 642 km (2014)
narrow gauge: 642 km 1.000-m gauge (2014)
note: under restoration
country comparison to the world: 107

Roadways:

total: 47,263 km (2013)
paved: 12,239 km (2013)
unpaved: 35,024 km (2013)
country comparison to the world: 84

Waterways:

3,700 km (mainly on Mekong River) (2012)
country comparison to the world: 28

Merchant marine:

total: 268
by type: bulk carrier 2, general cargo 176, oil tanker 19, other 71 (2019)
country comparison to the world: 57

Ports and terminals:

major seaport(s): Sihanoukville (Kampong Saom)
river port(s): Phnom Penh (Mekong)

Disputes - international:

Cambodia is concerned about Laos' extensive upstream dam construction; Cambodia and Thailand dispute sections of boundary; in 2011 Thailand and Cambodia resorted to arms in the dispute over the location of the boundary on the precipice surmounted by Preah Vihear Temple ruins, awarded to Cambodia by an International Court of Justice decision in 1962 and part of a UN World Heritage site; Cambodia accuses Vietnam of a wide variety of illicit cross-border activities; progress on a joint development area with Vietnam is hampered by an unresolved dispute over sovereignty of offshore islands

Illicit drugs:

Narcotics-related corruption reportedly involving some personnel in the government, military, and police; limited methamphetamine production; vulnerable to money laundering due to its cash-based economy and porous borders

Acronyms and Abbreviations

AADMER	Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response
ACTED	Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development
ACTIP	ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children
ADB	Asian Development Bank
ADPC	Asian Disaster Preparedness Center
AHA Centre	ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management
AIDS	Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
APACS	Aircraft and Personnel Automated Clearance System
APAN	All Partners Access Network
APP	Asian Preparedness Partnership
ARF	ASEAN Regional Forum
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ASSI	ASEAN Safe Schools Initiative
AVSF	Agronomes et Vétérinaires Sans Frontières
Bbl/day	Billion Barrels per Day
BHA	Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance
CamDi	Cambodia Disaster Damage & Loss Information System
CARAT	Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training
CBRN	Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Defense
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
CCAD	Civic Construction Action Detail
CCS	Country Cooperation Strategy
CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Preparedness
CE	Common Era
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CFE-DM	Center for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance
CHF	Cambodia Humanitarian Forum
CICA	Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia
CIS	Computer Information System
CMAC	Cambodian Mine Action Center
CNP	Cambodian Nationality Party
CNRP	Cambodia National Rescue Party
COCOM	Combatant Command
COMMIT	Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019
CPP	Cambodian People's Party
CRC	Cambodian Red Cross
DKI-APCSS	Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies

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DM Law	Law on Disaster Management
DMHA	Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance
DMSP	Department of Materials and State Property
Doc	Department of Construction (Cambodia)
DOD	Department of Defense (U.S.)
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
DWT	Dead Weight Tonnage
EAS	East Asia Summit
EBA	“Everything but Arms”
EMOPS	Emergency Operations
EOD	Explosive Ordnance Disposal
ERW	Explosive Remnants of War
EWS	Early Warning System
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization of the UN
FASMEC	Federation of Associations of Small and Medium Enterprises in Cambodia
FCG	Foreign Clearance Guide
FTX	Field training exercise
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GDACS	Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GPS	Global Positioning System
GRI	Global Risk Index
HADR	Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Response
HC	Humanitarian Coordinator
HCT	Humanitarian Country Team
HDX	Humanitarian Data Exchange
HFA	Hyogo Framework for Action
HMA	Humanitarian Mine Action
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HRF	Humanitarian Response Forum
HRP	Human Rights Party
HSP3	Third Health Strategic Plan
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
IBRD	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization
ICC	International Criminal Court
ICJ	International Court of Justice
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
ICRM	Institute of Catastrophe Risk Management

IDA	International Development Association
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFC	International Finance Corporation
IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IMO	International Maritime Organization
INFORM	Index for Risk Management
INGO	International Non-governmental Organization
INTERPOL	International Criminal Police Organisation
IO	International Organization
IOC	International Olympic Committee
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IPU	Inter-Parliamentary Union
IS	Information Sharing
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
ISP	Internet Service Providers
IT	Information Technology
ITC	International Trade Centre
ITSO	International Telecommunications Satellite Organization
ITU	International Telecommunications Union
JAG	Joint Action Group (JAG)
KEDP	Khmer Economic Development Party (KEDP)
KHR	Cambodian Riel (KHR)
KNUP	Khmer National United Party (KNUP)
kWh	Kilowatt Hours (kWh)
Lao PD	Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR)
LDP	League for Democracy Party
MAAF	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
MCIP	Multinational Communications Interoperability Program
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MIGA	Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency
MMR	Measles-Mumps-Rubella
MoEYS	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports
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 River Commission

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MRD	Ministry of Rural Development
Mt	Metric Ton
NACW	National Authority of Chemical Weapons
NAM	National Association of Manufacturers
NAP-DRR	National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction
NCD	Noncommunicable disease
NCDM	National Committee for Disaster Management
NDMS	National Committee for Maritime Safety
NDP	National Development Programme
NGO	Nongovernmental Organization
NMCB	Naval Mobile Construction Battalion
NPMEC	National Center for Peacekeeping, Mines, and Explosive Remnants of War Clearance
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN)
ODC	Open Development Cambodia
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UN)
OIF	International Organization of La Francophonie
OPCW	Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons
OSOCC	On-Site Operations Coordination Centre
PADEK	Partnership for Development in Kampuchea
PCA	Permanent Court of Arbitration
PCDM	Provincial Committees for Disaster Management
PDC	Pacific Disaster Center
PIN	People in Need
PPC	Preparedness Partnership of Cambodia
PPP	Purchasing power parity
PRISM	Platform for Real-time Impact and Situation Monitoring
RC	Resident Coordinator
RCAF	Royal Cambodian Armed Forces
RCN	Royal Cambodian Navy
RGC	Royal Government of Cambodia
RHCC	Changi Regional HADR Coordination Centre
ROAP	Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
RRT	Rapid Response Teams
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SitRep	Situation Report
STO	Sexually Transmitted Infection
TB	Tuberculosis
TCCC	Tactical combat casualty care
TEU	Twenty-foot Equivalent Unit
TSC	Theater Sustainment Command

TTX	Table top exercise
UISS	Unclassified Information Sharing Service
UN	United Nations
UNCDF	United Nations Capital Development Fund
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization
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
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
UNTAC	United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia
UPU	Universal Postal Union
U.S.	United States
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USARPAC	United States Army Pacific
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USG	United States Government
UTC	Coordinated Universal Time
UXO	Unexploded Ordnance
VBSS	Visit, board, search, and seizure
VSAT	Very-Small-Aperture Terminal
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WCO	World Customs Organization
WFP	World Food Programme
WFTU	World Federation of Trade Unions
WHO	World Health Organization
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WTO	World Tourism Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization
YF	Yellow Fever

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