

# UNICEF CAMBODIA AT A GLANCE

For every child  
Health, Education, Equality, Protection  
ADVANCE HUMANITY

unicef 





UNICEF  
IS THE  
UNITED  
NATIONS  
CHILDREN'S  
FUND

**We are unique among world organizations and unique among those working with young people. We have the authority to influence decision makers and the diversity of partners to turn the most innovative ideas into reality. Around the world, we use our expertise to meet the**

**challenges facing children and those who care for them.**

**Our history has given us a profound understanding of development and how important children are to progress.**

**All that we do helps children realize their full potential.**

WHO

ARE

WE?

## WHO ARE WE?

**UNICEF** is the United Nations Children' Fund, which has more than 7,000 staff members working in 158 countries and territories around the world. UNICEF began providing assistance to Cambodia in 1952 and we have been working ever since then to improve the well being of Cambodian children. We established our first country office in 1973 in Phnom Penh, the capital.

**UNICEF in Cambodia** is more than 140 women and men working to promote and protect the rights of Cambodian children. Although our main office is in Phnom Penh, we have over 40 staff members living and working in seven provinces around the country.

We advocate for children's rights and contribute to the well-being of children through programmes that help them to survive and thrive to

adulthood. We work in a diverse range of areas, including health, nutrition, education, water and sanitation, local governance, community empowerment, HIV/AIDS, rights promotion and child protection.

UNICEF works with and through the Government at all levels, but also cooperates with a wide variety of other partners to ensure the rights of children.

Our global experience and mandate allow us to influence and support decision makers and partners in turning innovative ideas into reality. Our expertise and commitment help Cambodia to meet the challenges facing children and those who care for them. All that we do helps Cambodian boys and girls to reach and realize their full potential.

**WHAT**

**DO**

**WE**

**STAND**

**FOR?**

## WHAT DO WE STAND FOR?

**Every child is born with rights.**

**Every child has the right to health and proper health care, the right to an education, the right to a name and a nationality.**

**Every child has the right to participate in matters that affect them and the right to be treated equally.**

**Every child has the right to be protected from harm.**

These rights are among those which are set out in the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Since it was first adopted in 1989, the Convention has become the most widely accepted human rights accord in history. Cambodia ratified the Convention in 1992.

We work towards the Millennium Development Goals, and in this country towards the Cambodia Millennium Development Goals.

**WHAT**

**DO**

**WE**

**DO?**

## WHAT DO WE DO?

- **Strive to give children the best start in life.**
- **Help children realize and reach their full potential.**
- **Create a safe and protective environment for all Cambodian children.**
- **Keep children's rights, issues and concerns at the forefront of national policies and programmes.**
- **Help children to have their voices heard in decisions that affect their lives.**



## Strive to give children the best start in life

**We care for children even in their mother's wombs.** Knowing that children's well-being depends on their mother's good health, we work to ensure that pregnant women have access to proper nutrition, quality antenatal care, a safe delivery and proper health care after delivery. We help disseminate the information and provide the services needed to prevent people from being infected with HIV. We also help HIV-positive pregnant women receive the care needed to prevent the virus from being transmitted to their babies.

**We help children survive and thrive in their earliest years** by supporting immunization services, convincing mothers to practice exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months of life, providing vitamin A to fight blindness, promoting oral rehydration therapy to combat diarrhoea and proper treatment to prevent pneumonia, and supporting the iodation of salt to prevent goitre and mental retardation. By supporting Cambodia's immunization programme we have helped dramatically reduce death and illness from poliomyelitis, diphtheria, neonatal tetanus, measles and other childhood diseases. Polio, an age-old scourge, was eradicated from Cambodia in 2000. Our funds are also used to

provide free treatment for children and families who otherwise could not afford it because of poverty. Despite these achievements in reducing threats to young lives, nearly half of Cambodian children under the age of five are still malnourished.

**We help children to grow properly** by teaching communities, families and caregivers about the importance of providing children with a nutritious and healthy diet, clean drinking water and a safe and sanitary living environment. We also help families to manage childhood illness and strive to ensure that preventive and curative health care services are made available for all children.

**We support** communities to ensure that adequate resources are devoted to the care of children at the local level. We promote communication for better hygiene and support the construction of community-owned water supply and sanitation facilities in poor, remote and under-serviced areas. These interventions help to reduce water-borne and sanitation-related diseases among rural populations, especially children and those who care for them.



## Help children realize and reach their full potential

Parallel with our efforts to help children survive and thrive, we take action to ensure that **children fully develop intellectually, emotionally and socially.**

We help the community to understand the importance of love, care and early stimulation in the mental, social, emotional and physical development of children. We train caregivers, including families, health workers and teachers, to understand how children develop and learn and how best they can support children in achieving their full potential. We support local governments and communities, especially those in poor and remote areas, to provide children with opportunities to play and learn.

Education is both the right of every child and critical for every child's development. We work to ensure that **all children enroll in school when they become six years old and stay to complete at least six years of schooling.** While 90 per cent of both boys and girls are enrolled in primary schools in recent years, only a little over half of them complete primary

education. UNICEF devotes special effort to giving girls and boys equal learning opportunities. We support improvement of school environment in rural and remote areas in order to ensure that all children have access to quality education in good learning environment. We train teachers to enable them to better teach their students and help them acquire necessary knowledge, skills and attitude. We help develop a more child-friendly curriculum and textbooks. We are also making schools safer and more hygienic by supporting to provide clean water and separate bathrooms for boys and girls.

**We help children to be well prepared for their adulthood** by providing psycho-social support and education about healthy living and life skills. Through the child-friendly schools initiative, we encourage schools to work closely with community leaders and parents to ensure that children acquire life skills that will protect them from HIV, drug and substance abuse, the threat of trafficking and daily stress and peer pressures.

ប្រយ័ត្ន គ្រោះមីន!!  
Danger! Mines!!



## Create a safe and protective environment for all Cambodian children

In Cambodia today, a majority of deaths among children under the age of five are due to pneumonia, other acute respiratory infections, dehydration due to diarrhoea, and illnesses complicated by malnutrition.

Cambodia regularly suffers from massive flooding during the rainy season, and in many years is hit by drought. We act to ensure a high level of preparedness and response capacity among communities to **protect children and their families from natural disasters**. We provide boats, emergency health kits, school supplies, water supply facilities and water purifiers when emergencies occur.

Due to nearly three decades of conflict that finally ended in 1999,

there are still 4-6 million landmines and large amounts of unexploded ordnance (UXO) in Cambodian soil. These mines and UXO continue to kill and maim many children in many provinces, and UNICEF supports mine risk education in schools and communities in order to reduce deaths and injuries from them.

Widespread poverty, accompanied by urbanization and labour migration, has led to an increase in the number of children in need of special protection, including orphans, street children, children with disabilities, children with HIV/AIDS, child labourers, children in conflict with the law, and children who are sexually exploited, trafficked and abused.



## Create a safe and protective environment for all Cambodian children (Cont)

**UNICEF helps create a protective environment for children** by supporting Government in enacting and enforcing laws to stop and punish those who abuse and exploit children and by raising awareness in the community of the need to protect children.

We promote birth registration for all children to ensure their right to a name and nationality and the protection they provide. We seek to end the trafficking of children and women out of, into and within Cambodia. We also provide children, including out-of-school children, with the skills they need to protect themselves.

The number of people infected with HIV has fallen over the past few years, but Cambodia still has one of the highest prevalence rates in Asia.

**UNICEF works to mitigate the effects of HIV/AIDS** by focusing on prevention among adolescents, education and counseling for those living with HIV. We work to prevent transmission of HIV from infected mothers to their babies. We support protection and care for those children and families infected and affected by HIV/AIDS including antiretroviral treatment and alternative care for orphans.



## Keep children's rights, issues and concerns at the forefront of national policies and programmes.

**We promote children's rights and work to keep children's issues high on the national agenda.** We provide assistance to Government to harmonize national legislation with international standards, including laws and regulations governing inter-country adoption and the marketing of infant formula. We provide technical support to develop detailed legislation on juvenile justice, responses to violations of children's rights and alternative care for children without primary caregivers. We participate in the development of sectoral policies in health, nutrition, education, water, sanitation, the family and children in need of special protection.

We act to ensure that the Government has the information it needs to realize the rights of its children by supporting the development of indicators to measure progress made on the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), as well as progress towards achieving the Cambodia Millennium

Development Goals. We work to ensure these indicators are incorporated into regular Government data gathering and statistics through CAMInfo, the national socio-economic indicator database. UNICEF also supports innovative national surveys on emerging issues related to children and youth in Cambodia and ensures that the findings of this research are made available to support the work of all our partners on children's and women's rights.

We support other duty bearers, including provincial governors, district chiefs and commune council members, in making child rights a reality at the local level.

**We help children to better express their views** through various children's fora and media outlets. By promoting youth media activities we help to strengthen children's own capacities to voice their opinions and concerns. We take action to ensure that children's views are heard in policy-making processes, especially on those issues directly related to their lives.

HOW

DO

WE

DO

IT?

## HOW DO WE DO IT?

We combine a mix of **service delivery, capacity building, empowerment, and advocacy and social mobilization** to achieve our objectives. We work with Cambodian and international counterparts to make Cambodia a better place for all children.

**When we say “UNICEF does this,” we always mean that we do it together with the Government and other partners.**

Protection and care of children is the responsibility of everyone. **Empowering people to understand, respect and respond to children’s rights** is UNICEF’s core mandate. We help improve the capacities of communities to care for

their children, including local governments, authorities, lawmakers, families, health and social workers, teachers, communicators, Buddhist monks and nuns, young people and children themselves.

We promote the wide implementation of promising and innovative programme models for children. Examples include the promotion of child-friendly learning environments, community-based alternative care systems for children without primary caregivers, prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, and involvement of Buddhist monks and nuns in the efforts to prevent HIV infection and care for those who are living with HIV/AIDS.



## HOW DO WE DO IT? (Cont)

**The Country Programme of Cooperation with the Royal Government of Cambodia** guides our efforts. It is implemented in collaboration with Government counterparts at all levels, other UN agencies and a large number of civil society organizations, and is updated every five years.

**We have more than 300 separate Cambodian counterparts.** We work with local governments, non-government organizations, lawmakers, civil administrators, communicators, doctors, midwives, teachers, police officers, religious clergy, civil engineers, scientists, volunteers and child-caregivers. Young people and children are also deeply involved in our work.

**We focus our assistance on the poorest communities in rural and remote areas.** Together with our partners, we help to reduce poverty,

in particular for vulnerable children and women.

UNICEF is funded entirely by voluntary contributions. While the majority of our resources come from governments, we also receive substantial support from the private sector. We work with various donors, including National Committees for UNICEF in developed countries, international development organizations, the private sectors and individuals to **raise funds for our activities in Cambodia.**

Our next Country Programme of Cooperation, which will run from 2006 through 2010, will require approximately US\$ 92 million in new funding. While we will receive around US\$ 23 million of this amount from UNICEF headquarters in New York, we will need to generate the rest by raising funds from donors and the private sector.



# CAMBODIA BY THE NUMBERS



## About Cambodia

- Children represent 46 per cent of Cambodia's total population. <sup>1</sup>
- Almost 5 million Cambodians live in poverty, on less than US\$1 per day.
- 85 per cent of the population lives in rural areas, but urban migration is also increasing. <sup>2</sup>
- 40 per cent of people living in rural areas are poor compared with 10 per cent in Phnom Penh and 25 per cent in other urban areas. <sup>3</sup> More than 74 per cent are employed in agricultural activities. <sup>1</sup>

## Maternal health

- Around five women die every day due to complications related to pregnancy and childbirth. <sup>4</sup>

- Out of 100 pregnant women, 69 do not have antenatal care and 68 do not have a skilled attendant present at delivery. <sup>4</sup>

## Child mortality and malnutrition

- More than 40,000 children die each year before their fifth birthday - about 110 children a day - mostly from preventable causes. The great majority of these children die in their first year of life. <sup>4</sup>
- Around 600,000 children under five years of age are underweight. <sup>4</sup>

## Water, environment and sanitation

- Over 62 per cent of households are using unsafe water sources,

with households in rural areas worse off than households in urban areas <sup>1</sup>

- Over 78 per cent of households do not have access to sanitation facilities, with households in rural areas worse off than households in urban areas. <sup>1</sup>

## Education

- Over 180,000 children of primary school age are not enrolled. <sup>5</sup>
- Over 47 per cent of children who go to primary school do not reach grade six. <sup>5</sup>
- Only 11 per cent of children aged 3 to 5 attend some form of preschool (public, community or private). <sup>5</sup>
- Only 26 per cent of children of the appropriate age are enrolled in lower secondary school. <sup>5</sup>

## Child protection

- Around 300,000 births go unregistered each year. <sup>5</sup>
- There are an estimated 670,000 orphans in Cambodia <sup>6</sup>, with over 20,000 living in alternative care, including an estimated 11,400 children living in residential care. <sup>7</sup>
- Between 10,000 and 20,000 children are working on the streets of Phnom Penh, of which 1,200 are living on the streets on their own. <sup>8</sup>
- 270 children are in prison, comprising 4 per cent of the country's prison population. <sup>9</sup>
- It is estimated that there are 123,100 people living with HIV/AIDS, while the official adult HIV/AIDS prevalence rate is 1.9 per cent (19 of every 1,000 people). <sup>10</sup>

## Statistical References

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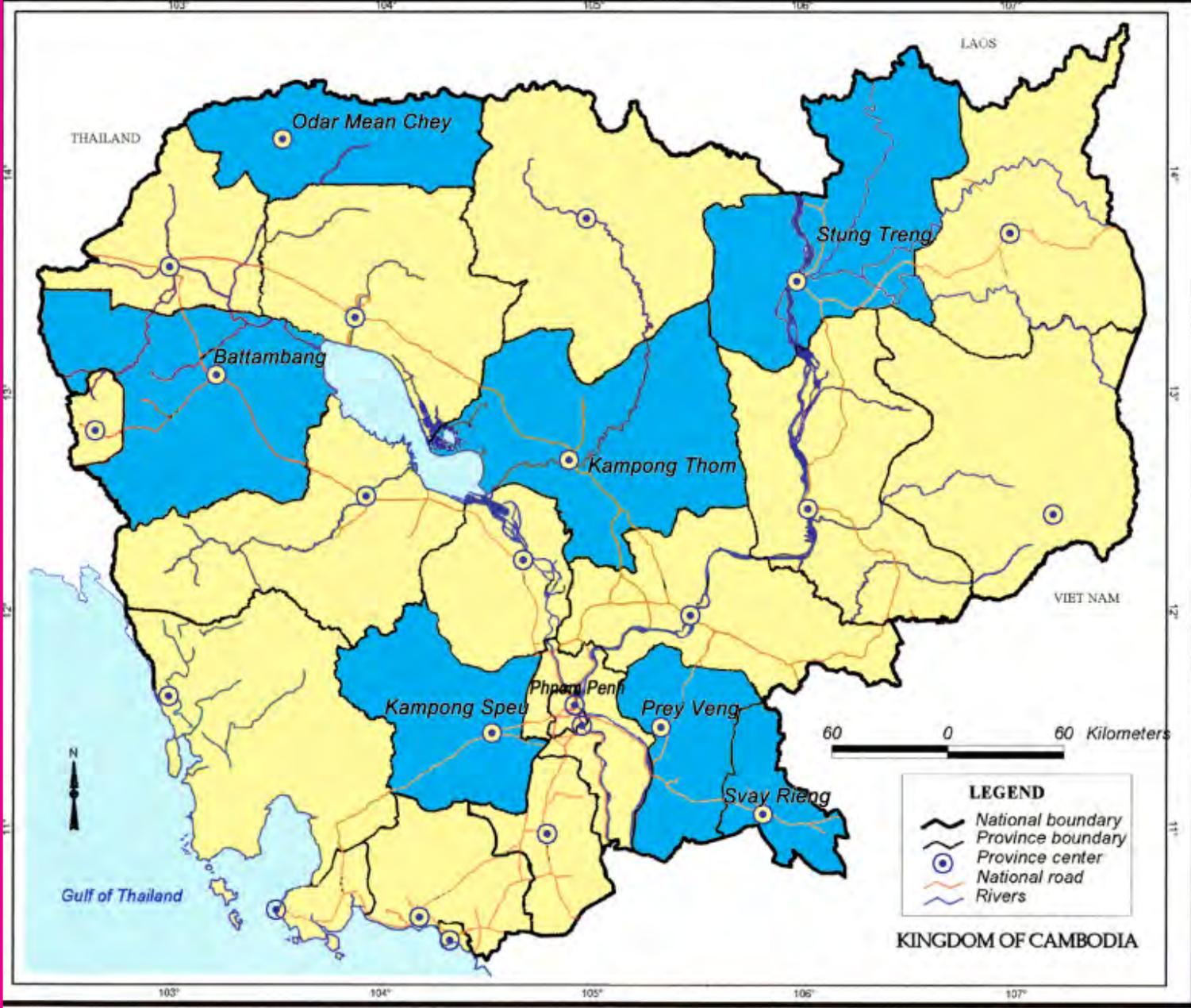


**WHERE**

**DO**

**WE**

**WORK?**



INDICATES PROVINCES WHERE UNICEF PROVIDES PARTICULARLY INTENSIVE SUPPORT

## **Cambodia Millennium Development Goals for 2015**

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
2. Achieve universal nine-year basic education
3. Promote gender equality and empower women
4. Reduce child mortality
5. Improve maternal health
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
7. Ensure Environmental Stability
8. Develop a global partnership for development
9. Demining, UXO and Victim Assistance

## UNICEF Timeline in Cambodia

**1946** UNICEF is created by the United Nations to provide emergency aid to European children after World War II.

**1950** UNICEF's mandate is expanded to benefit children in developing countries.

**1952** UNICEF begins providing assistance to Cambodia.

**1959** The Declaration on the Rights of the Child is adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, focusing on a child's health care, good nutrition and an education.

**1973** UNICEF establishes its first office in Phnom Penh. It is closed in **1975** following the Khmer Rouge takeover.

**1979** UNICEF establishes operations at the Thai-Cambodian border to assist thousands of Cambodia refugees. The joint UNICEF/ICRC aid mission begins inside Cambodia and by 1981 it provides more than \$600 million in

emergency assistance to refugees and the internally displaced.

**1980s** UNICEF shifts its focus from emergency to rehabilitation and development. A rural water supply programme begins in 1983, while the expanded programme of immunization gets underway in 1986.

**1991** Following the signing of the Paris Peace Accord, a Country Programme for 1992-1994 is drawn up by UNICEF and the Government.

**1992** Cambodia ratifies the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

**1993** First democratic elections held in Cambodia

**1996** First UNICEF/Royal Government five-year Plan of Operations

**2001** Second UNICEF/Royal Government Plan of Operations

**2005** Development of the third UNICEF/Royal Government Plan of Operations

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