



Country Card
Cambodia





HI team and intervention areas

HI has 55 staff members in Cambodia.

Cambodia



General data of the country

a) General Data

Country ¹	Cambodia	Neighboring country (Vietnam)	France
Population	16.946.446	98.168.929	67.499.343
IHDI	0.475	0.588	0.90
Maternal mortality	184	42	4
Gender Development Index	0.922	0.997	0.987
Population under HCR mandate	75.036	35.475	580.898
INFORM index	4.6	3.7	2.3
Fragile State Index	80.5	60.9	30.9
GINI Index		35.7	32.4
Population covered by at least one social protection benefit (%)	6.2	38.8	100

b) Humanitarian law instruments ratified by the country

Humanitarian law instruments	Status
Mine Ban Treaty	Ratified 28/07/1999
Convention on Cluster Munitions	Non-Signatory
UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Ratified 20/12/2012

c) Geopolitical analysis

1. Socio cultural demographic elements

Cambodia is located in the south west of the Indochina peninsula. The country shares borders with Thailand, Lao PDR and Vietnam and is divided into 25 provinces. Roughly 75% of the country consists of Mekong River lowlands and the Tonle Sap Lake basin, with elevations below 100m.

The tropical climate is monsoonal: the dry season runs from December to April and the wet season from May to November. Cambodia's population remains predominately rural with about 74.9% living in rural areas and 25.1% in urban settlements. This distribution is currently



evolving, due to a high rate of migration out of rural areas, to Phnom Penh and Thailand. Cambodia's population is young: 56% is under 30 years.

2. Political elements

Cambodia endured the radical communist Khmer Rouge's regime under the leadership of Pol Pot between 1975 and 1978 – when two million people died in the regime's brutal pursuit of a rural utopia – and Vietnamese occupation between 1978 and 1992. The conflict ended in 1991 with the signing of the Paris Comprehensive Peace settlement.

3. Economic elements

Cambodia has achieved strong economic growth rates and significant progress in poverty reduction in the past 20 years, and has attained the lower middle-income status as of 2016, mainly driven by garment exports and tourism. Cambodia's economy grew by an average of 7% per annum during 2010–2019, making it one of the fastest-growing economies in the world².

The global shock triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic significantly impacted Cambodia's economy in 2020 at a time when Cambodia also faces the partial suspension of preferential access to the EU market under the “Everything but Arms” initiative³. Restrictions on international travel, which were in place for most of 2021, caused an 85% drop in international tourist arrivals. Services contracted by 0.4% on a continued steep decline⁴. Real gross domestic product contracted by 3.1% in 2020 but its economy bounced back and grew by around 2% in 2021⁵. The economy is forecast to grow by 5.3% in 2022 and 6.5% in 2023 in strong linkage with free trade agreement with China. The growth in services in 2023 will build on the momentum in 2022, especially in the hospitality sector, and will likely be supported by Cambodia hosting the 2023 Southeast Asian Games and the 2023 national election. This forecast, however, assumes that renewed COVID-19 infections driven by new variants will only have a mild impact on mobility⁶.

While in 2009 Cambodia achieved the Millennium Development Goal of halving poverty, today around 4.5 million people remain near poor, with the majority of them living in rural areas and being vulnerable to falling back into poverty when exposed to socio-economic and natural shocks. Poverty is a multi-dimensional phenomenon that affects many areas of life, including health, education and participation. In Cambodia, multi-dimensional poverty has fallen, but much less quickly than economic poverty. Nearly half of Cambodian children remain multi-dimensionally poor⁷.

² <https://www.adb.org/countries/cambodia/main>

³ <https://www.customs4trade.com/blog/ec-withdraws-cambodian-tariff-preferences>

⁴ <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/related/255706/ADO2022-Cambodia-Chapter.pdf>

⁵ <https://www.adb.org/countries/cambodia/main>

⁶ <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/related/255706/ADO2022-Cambodia-Chapter.pdf>

⁷ https://www.unicef.org/cambodia/media/2361/file/CountryProgramme_OVERVIEW_25x25_2019_Final.pdf%20.pdf



Summary of HI presence in the country

HI has been working in Cambodia since 1982, however, between 1982 and 1986, HI worked under the umbrella of American Friend Service Committee. In 1987, HI started to operate under its own name. Today, HI is recognized in the country as a major disability actor. Although there have been many achievements, we can highlight the following:

- Rehabilitation sector: set up of 7 Physical Rehabilitation Centers and the para tetra rehabilitation center, creation of the school for physical therapists.
- Mine action sector: set up of the Mine/ Unexploded Ordnance Victims Information System and transfer to the Cambodian Red Cross.
- HI was one of the first international actors to work on Road safety and initiated the setup of the National Road Safety Committee (NRSC) and the Road Crash and Victim Information System (RCVIS) and transferred later to NRSC. Developed the Road Safety curricula for primary and secondary education and has been an important contributor to the drafting of the traffic law and its enforcement.
- Mother and Child health: Newborn and young child screening tools have been included into the National Safe Motherhood Protocol and Minimum Package of Activities guideline of the Ministry of Health. The physical screening tool for new born (0-28 days) has been integrated into the midwifery curriculum.
- RAISE Project (Rehabilitation, Accessibility promotion for an Inclusive and Supportive Environment for All) targeted Kampong Cham and Tbong Khmum Provinces with support activities to the 6 PRCs managed by PWDF, 10 provinces for the accessibility activities, and national level advocacy and technical assistance activities.



Overview of ongoing projects

Sectors where HI conducts projects and focuses on beneficiaries and operational partnerships

Project title and Main sector(s) of intervention	Main activities	Beneficiaries	Partner(s)	Location	Dates of beginning and end of the project	Donors
Rehabilitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modulization of Kampong Cham PRC management procedures Provide quality rehabilitation services, including remote rehabilitation services Development of innovative tools Support to the sector Collaboration with HI Vietnam for the improvement of the Open rehab App 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20 mental health professionals 27 PRC staff 27 rehab sector stakeholders 10 DPO members 2 Focal users 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PWDF/ mosvy, Louvain Coopération. TPO Professional associations (CPTA, khapo) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kampong Cham and Tboung Khmum Provinces National Level 	Ongoing project since 1982.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MAE LUX DFAT through ACCESS MGO
MCH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roll out the screening tools in the Health facilities Training of health care professionals Screening of children (0-5 years) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 168 health professionals 15 TWG members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moh; University of Health Science 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kampong Cham province Tboung Khmum Provinces National Level 	Ongoing project since 2006. No funding anymore by the end of 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MAE Lux
Livelihood/ Inclusive Local Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the integration of the needs of the most vulnerable citizens in the Commune Investments plans, Support to Civil Society and Service Providers for service delivery IGA support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 38 staff of service providers and communes 1,548 family members of persons with disabilities Service providers from civil society. Social Accountability Framework stakeholders. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kampong Cham OPD; Tboung Khmum District federation; Commune councils; Provincial vocational training centers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kampong Cham province Tboung Khmum Province 	Project duration (01/2018- 12/2022)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MAE LUX



<p>Accessibility project</p>	<p>Training of Trainers to master trainers to DAC, opds, and other relevant stakeholders. Dissemination of accessibility toolkits and national accessibility guidelines Train and guide the master trainers in the implementation of the technical standards on physical accessibility Supports master trainers to roll-out the accessibility training to provincial DAC members Promote accessibility in transportation Organize the accessibility design challenge with university students and campaign on Facebook</p>	<p>15 DAC staff from Phnom Penh in 1st batch 21 master trainers from provincial DAC branches in 1st batch 50 master trainers {F=13, Persons with disabilities=12 (4♀)} including opds, ngos, private sectors, Governors in 2nd batch. 472 (F=148, pwds=26) provincial DAC members are trained. 352 (F=102), people with disabilities 6 (F=2) participants aware of accessibility guidelines during the dissemination workshop.</p>	<p>Disability Action Council-SG (DAC-SG)</p>	<p>10 intervention provinces National level</p>	<p>Project started in 2019, funded until end 2022</p>	<p>DFAT through ACCESS</p>
<p>DARM-CSHD Phase - HMA</p>	<p>Develop and implement a 5-year strategy Organizational strengthening of CSHD Develop and implement A Long-Term Risk Management protocol Mine clearance, battle area clearance and land release for communities EOD Spot Task Internal Quality Assurance / Quality Control (QA/QC) on CSHD operations</p>	<p>A minimum of 15 deminers 12 EOD team members, 4 senior management staff 5 support staff Approximately 4,039 direct beneficiaries (1,397 men; 1,864 women; 388 girls; 390 boys)</p>	<p>Cambodian Self Help Demining (CSHD)</p>	<p>Districts in Siem Reap and Kampong Thom provinces</p>	<p>Feb 2021 To Jan 2025</p>	<p>PM/WRA</p>



Donors

Foreign Affairs Ministry Luxembourg



The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
(DFAT) – Australia



Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

The Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement
in the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Political-
Military Affairs (PM/WRA)

