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# Cambodia



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## Country snapshot

**Population:** 14.49 million\*

**Achieved Independence:** 1953

**Life expectancy at birth:** 60.6 yrs\*\*

**Adult literacy rate:** 76.3%\*\*

**Access to improved water source:** 65%\*\*

**Access to latrine facility at premises:** 33.7% (Urban = 81.5%, Rural = 23.2%)\* \*\*

**Under five mortality rate:** 62 per 1000 births\*\*\*

**Maternal mortality rate:** 461 per 100,000 live births\*\*\*

**HIV prevalence:** 0.8% (source: UNICEF and KHANA)

\* Source: CIA World Factbook 2010

\*\*Source: Human Development Reports – United Nations Development Program, Cambodia

\*\*\*Source: General Population Census of Cambodia 2010: National Institute of Statistics, Ministry of Planning, RGoC.

**Program overview** CARE worked in Cambodia between 1973 and 1975, distributing food, providing medical assistance and improving education. From 1975 onwards CARE worked to support the millions of Cambodian refugees who fled the Khmer Rouge and were living in camps along the Thai-Cambodian border. In 1990, CARE returned to Cambodia, working with the United Nations to help 370,000 Cambodian refugees return to their homes. Over the years, CARE has shifted its focus in Cambodia from short-term, vital relief operations, to long-term projects in health, education and rural development.

### Disaster risk reduction

CARE is working with communities to prepare for and reduce the effects of drought, focusing on agricultural land and water management, soil conservation, and different ways to farm and earn an income. CARE is also working to reduce families' vulnerability to disasters by building the skills of people and organisations. CARE has also provided relief to victims of Cyclone Ketsana, which hit Cambodia in October 2009. CARE, in partnership with local and international NGOs has been distributing food and non-food items to the most affected and vulnerable households in Ratanakiri province. In 2010, CARE with the support of ECHO and BMZ have moved from relief to recovery for those communities affected by the Ketsana Floods in Ratanakiri. Focus has been on helping Schools reopen, cleaning wells, providing cash grants to vulnerable households, replacing lost livestock and repairs to key agriculture equipment.

### De-mining

One in 278 Cambodians is a landmine survivor and more than five million mines are still live and causing death and injury. CARE, in collaboration with local partners, is clearing mines and unexploded ordnance so that poor communities are able to use land safely and effectively.

### Food and livelihood security

Cambodia is one of the poorest and least-developed countries in the Mekong Region. CARE's activities aim to increase people's access to better livelihood opportunities, establish savings and credit groups in villages, and improve rural people's

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farming techniques and financial skills through support and training.

### Education

Most indigenous people do not speak Cambodia's national language of Khmer, which is the language used in government schools. Consequently, the rates of enrolment, retention and literacy amongst indigenous children are among the lowest in the country. CARE has established community-run schools, where students learn in both their own language and Khmer. CARE is also providing scholarships that directly target disadvantaged girls and is teaching literacy and life skills to marginalised adolescents, including sex workers and youth from ethnic minorities.

### Health

Cambodia experiences high rates of maternal, infant and child mortality with a continued prevalence of malaria, tuberculosis and HIV. CARE encourages communities to adopt safe reproductive health and family planning practices, particularly targeting young people through adolescent-friendly services.

CARE is supporting institutional capacity building of the Provincial Health Department of Koh Kong Province to strengthen the senior management capacities of the main provincial health department and health centres. This will contribute to better health care services to the communities in the province. CARE in collaboration with the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, is researching the effects of solar disinfected drinking water to ensure safe water is available to the poorest households that cannot afford water filter systems.

### HIV prevention and care

Despite successes in reducing HIV prevalence, the percentage of adults infected with HIV in Cambodia is 0.8%. CARE is supporting HIV positive children in homes that provide treatment, training and shelter, while helping them reintegrate back into their communities.

Additionally, CARE provides children affected by HIV with vocational training, medical care, counselling, and legal support.

### Avian influenza (AI)

CARE approaches AI as a critical public health issue and a crisis that could push millions of people into extreme poverty. In Cambodia, CARE is working with communities across the Mekong Region to reduce their vulnerability to the AI epidemic by increasing awareness and ensuring that people understand the basic precautions that can prevent AI outbreaks.

### Human rights

CARE works to promote human rights in Cambodia. CARE is providing young men with training that aims to prevent incidents of gender-based violence and promotes sexual responsibility. CARE is training police in gender issues, and is also raising awareness of land rights and land registration procedures so that rural farmers have legal ownership of their land.

### Major donors

Asia Development Bank (ADB), The Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), Brook Family Foundation, CARE Friends Okayama, Centre for Disease Control (CDC), Conservation International, CUSA Private Donor John Peterson, CUSA-Private Donor Yim Family, Elton John Foundation, European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR), European Union (EU), Global Fund, Ireland-Department of Foreign Affairs, Levis Strauss Foundation, Mike Matsushita Fund, McKnight Foundation, Office of US Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), Patsy Collins Trust Fund Initiative, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), USAID, US Embassy, West Region Pool, and various private and corporate donors.

### CARE International members supporting current programs

CARE Australia, CARE Canada, CARE USA, CARE USA's Asia Regional Management Unit (ARMU).

Last updated June 2010

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