

POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Our strategy

Provide data and data analysis on population dynamics contribute to evidence to strengthen national policies and programmes to improve sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, HIV and gender equality in Cambodia.

Our work

UNFPA focuses on developing capacity at national and sub-national levels, to collect, analyze and use data, through working with both the Ministry of Planning and the Ministry of Interior. We provide technical assistance, including training, funding, sharing experiences and lessons learned to help strengthen the collection, analysis and use of data in developing policies and strategies, as well as integrating the most important population issues into the national strategies and policies.

As Cambodia goes through a decentralization and deconcentration reform, UNFPA engages with the reform process by training and supporting authorities at the commune level, enabling them to understand and address population issues in their local context.

Rural urban migration

Migration is a well-known phenomenon in Cambodia and in the region. UNFPA provided technical and financial support through a partnership with the University of California, San Francisco to undertake the first rural urban migration study in the country, called CRUMP.

The results revealed that the degree of internal migration is much higher than expected and villages are losing population at an alarming rate. As a consequence, the population of Phnom Penh is growing fast and more young people will come to the capital in the coming years. A follow-up study will be undertaken in 2015.



Photo: UNFPA Cambodia

The Facts :

- The total population of Cambodia is 14.68 million and is growing at an annual rate of 1.46%, much higher than the neighbouring countries
- 11.5% of the population lives in Phnom Penh and the urban population constitutes 21.44% of the total population, and is increasing
- There is an important rural urban migration in the country and some villages loose up to 10% of their population annually
- Cambodia is at the start of the demographic window of opportunity, with a large number of potentially employable young people
- The life expectancy at birth is 68.9 years and is increasing.
- The ageing phenomena of the population will soon start, the proportion of elderly, over 65 years old, is 5% and is slowly increasing to reach 10% in 2050.
- Fertility is declining and is now 2.8 live births per women during her reproductive age.

Strengthen national policies on population and integration of population dynamics in the national plans

The RGOC and UNFPA have made substantial efforts to integrate a rights based approach in population and development planning. UNFPA provided technical and financial assistance for the revision of the National Population Policy and for the background paper: Integration of Demographic Perspectives in Development in Cambodia. Both contributed to the integration of the population dimension in the National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP), the Cambodian Rectangular Strategy and the Vision 2030 Plan.

Census and Intercensal Survey

UNFPA provided funding and technical assistance to the 2008 population census and the 2013 Cambodian Intercensal Population Survey or CIPS. We partner with the National Statistics Institute in the Ministry of Planning, SIDA and JICA to ensure that quality data are available for national planning. The census is the largest population database in the country and is the basis for all overall planning and development in Cambodia.

Demographic health survey

The Cambodian Demographic and Health Survey, or CDHS, is a key piece of evidence to measure progress in sexual reproductive health, contraception, HIV/AIDS, child health and nutrition, maternal health and nutrition, malaria and other vital development parameters.

UNFPA has provided funding for the CDHS survey in 2000 and 2005, and was with AusAid, the largest financial contributor to the 2010 survey.

Together with the MOP, UNFPA developed a series of secondary data analysis on teenage fertility, unmet need for family planning, childhood diseases and early post natal care which contributed to a better understanding of reproductive health needs in Cambodia.



Photo: SERIK Chanboutu

Decentralisation: Working with the WCCC and CWCC

UNFPA's interventions at community level aim to strengthen the capacity of local authorities under the current government decentralization reform.

Provincial and District Women's and Children's Consultative Committees (WCCC) and Commune Committee for Women and Children (CCWC) in seven provinces such as Kampong Chhnang, Banteay Meanchey, Siem Reap, Preah Vihear, Kampong Cham, Stung Treng and Ratanakiri receive funding in the country to respond to the increase of access to sexual and reproductive services, secure reproductive rights, deal with youth issues and gender-based violence.



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