



Country Card Cambodia





HI team and intervention areas

HI has 41 national staff and 2 international staff members in Cambodia.

Cambodia



General data of the country

a) General Data

Country ¹	Cambodia	Neighboring country (Vietnam)	France
Population	51874024	97.338.583	67.391.582
IHDI	0.589	0.70	0.90
Maternal mortality	75	43	8
Gender Development Index	0.984	0.997	0.987
Population under HCR mandate	10937528		368,352
INFORM index	5.4	3.7	2.2
Fragile State Index	78.1	63.89	30.48
GINI Index	51.5	35.7	31.6
Public Social Protection	49.7	6.3	31.7

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

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.

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.

¹ https://hinside.hi.org/intranet/jcms/pl1_2540344/fr/2020-update-country-indicators-2ndary-data/-/donnees-secondaires-mises-a-jour



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.

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.

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



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"> Refer to the pSquare project data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PWDs of Kampong Cham & Tboung Khmum provinces; Referral clients from nearby provinces, i.e. Kampong Thom, Preah Vihear, Siem Reap, Kratie; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PWDF/MoSVY MoH APOPO Louvain Cooperation 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"> MAELUX (AC6) MGO HI (OF)
Inclusive Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer to the pSquare project data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children's with disabilities in targeted 20 primary schools in Kampong Cham & Tboung Khmum provinces; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MoEYS/PoEYS NEP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kampong Cham and Tboung Khmum Provinces National Level 	Jan 2023 – Dec 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MAELUX (AC6)
ATScale project (Enabling Environment, Mobility & Eye health)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer to the pSquare project data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PWDs served by 11 PRCs to cover adjacent provinces; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PWDF/ MoSVY, MoH CHAI CDPO 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phnom Penh, Kampong Cham, Takeo, Prey Veng, Kratie, Siem Reap, Battambang, Kampong Chhnang, Kampong Speu, Kampong Som 	Mar 2023 - Feb 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ATScale/UNOPS (Through CHAI)
DARM Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer to the pSquare project data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum of 15 Deminers; 12 EOD team members; 4 Sr. management staff; 5 Support staff; Approximately 4,039 direct beneficiaries (1,397 men; 1,864 women; 388 girls; 390 boys); 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CHSD Cambodian Mine Action Center (CMAC) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Siem Reap Province & adjacent area allocated by CMAC 	Feb 2021 – Jan 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> US-WRA



Donors

 <p>LUXEMBOURG AID & DEVELOPMENT Mae-LUX</p>	 <p>United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)</p>	 <p>US Department of State Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement (WRA)</p>