



### **National Population Policy**

What does it mean for planning?







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# Population and sustainable development concerns all of us

When preparing a development plan for your community, commune, province, sector or the country it is important to think about the people are you are planning for. You need to determine what the needs and rights of the children, women and

men are and how you can ensure these now and in the future. Involve the men, women and youth in the decision making process on what should be done so that the outcome of the development will be prosperous for all people.



### Questions planners should ask themselves are:

- What livelihood assets or opportunities (natural, physical, financial, social) do men and women have access to?
- What percentages of the population are children, youth, men, women and elderly? What resources are distributed to them?
- What are the major obstacles to the participation of youth, women and the poor in the social and economic development of your community?
- What natural resources do we have, how are they being used and do we know about the long term effect of this use?
- How do the planned activities affect the allocation of the budget?

# What is the relationship between population and development?

Think of your home and family. What if your family continued to grow? What things might change in the way you live? What would you need in your home? For instance, you might need more resources like food, clothes and water, and you might need more space. In order to solve this problem, you might decide to build on to your house, or move to a bigger house with more land to grow rice, or move to a new location in order to get more income. If you had a larger group of people in your household, you might also organize cooking, cleaning or farming tasks differently. If your neighbors had a smaller household size, they might organize their tasks differently.

People depend on and use all kinds of natural resources like water, trees, fish etc. to improve their lives and develop economically. However, using natural resources has an influence on the environment. More people using more resources can result in an increase in the production of waste, such as garbage or dirty water. And, an

overuse of natural resources, such as trees or fish, can result in a decrease in the overall supply and an increase in cost.

When many families grow larger at the same time, they need more houses, more land, more food, more water, more schools, more health clinics, more jobs, etc. But resources are often limited, and economic and social development may not be able to grow as quickly as the population. Therefore when a population grows we must take into account existing resources, the current environment, and current levels of economic and social development.

When there is a rapid population growth it is more difficult to achieve sustainable development or raise the income per person and reduce poverty, since every individual requires health care, education, employment and equipment. Therefore population dynamics, social development and **poverty reduction** within the country are closely linked.

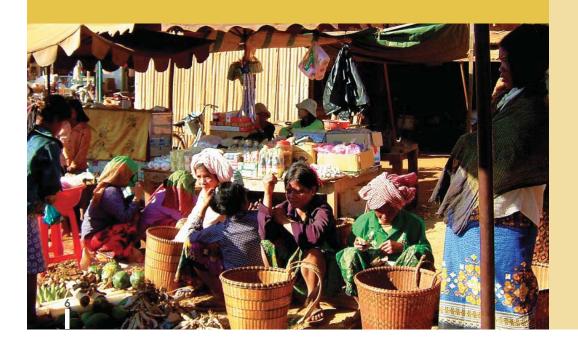


# Population development policies

The number of people, the speed of growth, the quality of life, and the challenges to be faced are influenced by political, social, economic and environmental conditions.

Population development is not a one way process. People influence these conditions by the decisions they take.

**Population policies** help individual countries, communities and sectors to develop their own plans for sustainable and human rights based development. Clear policies help make sure that everyone is working towards the same goal. Population policies help planners to provide evidence of which area to focus on.



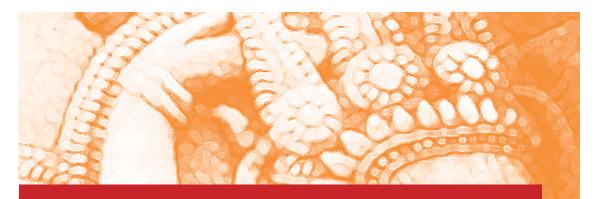
## Cambodian National Population Policy

In 2004 the Royal Government of Cambodia launched its first **National Population Policy (NPP).** The National Population policy is formulated bearing in mind Khmer culture

and traditional values and it fully respects International Human Rights principles and conventions.

The aim of this National Population Policy is to ensure **sustainable development**, and to protect the environment and natural resources, so that the **people can live happy**, **healthy**, **productive lives**, **free from poverty**. The National Population Policy aligns with the long-term Poverty Reduction goals of the Royal Cambodian Government, and supports achievement of the Cambodian Millennium Development Goals (CMDGs).

The National Population policy has the vision that all couples and individuals should decide freely when they want to have children, and how many children they want to have. The policy acknowledges that people need access to adequate information and reproductive health services in order to make informed choices. The National Population Policy does not fix the total number of children that a couple can have.



### Who are the people that are poor and why are they poor?

#### **Poverty**

Cambodia is at a cross-roads between post conflict rehabilitation and long-term economic and social development. Poverty remains very high, with 36 percent of the population below the poverty line. In Cambodia poverty is predominantly rural, associated with landlessness, limited diversification of economic activity, limited access to social services and large household size.

People who are poor often suffer from greater health problems, less opportunities to receive education, develop themselves and therefore often remain poor. Female headed households have a higher rate of child labor than male-headed households and therefore their children especially girls, in these households are particularly at risk of poverty.

The National Population Policy introduces seven key objectives and recommends a number of related policy measures for implementation.

NPP objective

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