

Cambodia



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WHO region	Western Pacific
World Bank income group	Lower-middle-income
Child health	
Infants exclusively breastfed for the first six months of life (%) (2014)	74
Demographic and socioeconomic statistics	
Life expectancy at birth (years) (2015)	66.6 (Male) 70.7 (Female) 68.7 (Both sexes)
Population (in thousands) total (2015)	15577.9
% Population under 15 (2015)	31.6
% Population over 60 (2015)	6.8
Poverty headcount ratio at \$1.25 a day (PPP) (% of population) (2009)	18.6
Literacy rate among adults aged >= 15 years (%) (2007-2012)	74
Gender Inequality Index rank (2014)	104
Human Development Index rank (2014)	143
Health systems	
Total expenditure on health as a percentage of gross domestic product (2014)	5.68
Private expenditure on health as a percentage of total expenditure on health (2014)	77.96
General government expenditure on health as a percentage of total government expenditure (2014)	6.13
Physicians density (per 1000 population) (2014)	0.169
Nursing and midwifery personnel density (per 1000 population) (2014)	0.791
Mortality and global health estimates	
Neonatal mortality rate (per 1000 live births) (2016)	14.8 [10.1-21.6]
Under-five mortality rate (probability of dying by age 5 per 1000 live births) (2016)	28.7 [19.6-41.4]
Maternal mortality ratio (per 100 000 live births) (2015)	161 [117 - 213]
Births attended by skilled health personnel (%) (2014)	89.0
Public health and environment	
Population using safely managed sanitation services (%) (2015)	75.5 (Total) 100.0 (Urban) 69.1 (Rural)
Population using safely managed drinking water services (%) (2015)	42.4 (Total) 88.1 (Urban) 30.5 (Rural)

HEALTH SITUATION

Health outcomes in Cambodia have improved significantly in recent years due to strong economic growth and health sector reform since the 1990s. With improvements in life expectancy and falling fertility, Cambodia is benefiting from a “demographic dividend” expected to sustain economic growth for the next few decades. These trends have also seen a decline in the younger population (0–14 years old) from 43% in 1998 to a projection of 28% in 2018 whereby Cambodia is slowly transitioning to an ageing society.

Cambodia achieved most of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) targets, except for some areas in which the achievements were slightly below the target. This “unfinished business” under the MDGs is now being tackled as a priority for renewed efforts under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including continuing challenges in maternal and child health and for communicable diseases such as HIV, tuberculosis and malaria.

Poverty remains an issue – in 2014, the poverty rate was 13.5%, with 2 million poor people. Despite the rapid growth of the capital of Phnom Penh due to internal migration, about 90% of the poor still live in the countryside.

With this progress, Cambodia is seeing new challenges. Ageing, urbanization and increase in unhealthy lifestyles have driven a sharp rise in prevalence of noncommunicable diseases, which now account for 61% of total deaths, with ischaemic heart disease and cerebrovascular disease among the top causes of premature mortality.

HEALTH POLICIES AND SYSTEMS

The Third Health Strategic Plan 2016–2020 (HSP3) of the Ministry of Health launched in 2016 (informed by the National Strategic Development Plan 2014–2018) provides Cambodia’s foundation for investing in health and moving towards universal health coverage, reflecting the vision, goals and targets of the SDGs.

The overarching policy goal of HSP3 is “improved health outcomes of the population, with increased financial risk protection in access to quality health care services”, with four subsidiary Health Development Goals addressing maternal, newborn and child mortality and malnutrition; communicable diseases; noncommunicable diseases; and service delivery and financial protection.

Cambodia has a well-established network of public health services, including at the central, provincial and community levels, as well as those in operational districts. The national budget for health has almost doubled in real terms in the last five years, and there has been impressive progress in providing financial risk protection for the poor through measures such as Health Equity Funds (HEFs) and voucher schemes, with the former covering all health centres now. However, challenges persist in access and quality of services, with high out-of-pocket expenditure, and a growing and poorly regulated private sector. And despite progress, Cambodia does not yet meet all 13 International Health Regulations core capacity requirements.

COOPERATION FOR HEALTH

Health sector partnerships in Cambodia are complex and dynamic, with at least 30 partners and more than 160 nongovernmental organizations. An effective Technical Working Group-Health (TWG-H) with broad representation from Government and organizations facilitates information sharing and policy discussions. Cambodia has 23 United Nations agencies working together through the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2016–2018, with the new UNDAF under development.

WHO COUNTRY COOPERATION STRATEGIC AGENDA (2016–2020)

Strategic Priorities	Main Focus Areas for WHO Cooperation
STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1: Providing leadership for priority public health programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addressing the challenges of communicable diseases Addressing the challenges of noncommunicable diseases Promoting health through the life course
STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2: Advancing universal health coverage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving equity, efficiency and sustainability in access and financing Improving quality and safety of health-care services Ensuring access to essential medicines and vaccines Strengthening effective use of information, evidence and research
STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3: Strengthening the capacity for health security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building capacity to detect and respond to health security events
STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4: Engaging in multisectoral collaboration and fostering partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Combating antimicrobial resistance (AMR) Addressing the determinants of water, sanitation and climate change

Access the Cambodia-WHO Country Cooperation Strategy 2016-2020 at <http://iris.wpro.who.int/handle/10665.1/13372>

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