

COUNTRY FACT SHEET THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA



GUIDING QUESTIONS

- How would years of war and government unrest impact a country's educational system? How would this impact the number of girls in school?
- In what ways does Sokha's life reflect the challenges faced by Cambodia?
- Cambodia is a country working to rebuild itself. How will investing in girl's education impact the country's future?

GENERAL INFORMATION

Capital City: Phnom Penh

Population of Cambodia: 15.9 million (2016 est.)

Population of Phnom Penh: 1.73 million

Mobile/Cellular Telephones: 20.851 million

Cambodia has a rich and vibrant history; however, the country is recovering from a series of occupations, harsh communist rule, and civil conflicts. The Cambodian coup of March 18, 1970 put a pro-American, anti-Vietnamese government in power and ended Cambodia's neutrality in the Vietnam War. The Cambodian civil war led to the Cambodian Genocide, one of the bloodiest in history. After five years of savage fighting, the Republican government was defeated on April 17, 1975 when the victorious Khmer Rouge proclaimed the establishment of Democratic Kampuchea. Cambodia suffered greatly under Pol Pot, the leader of the Khmer Rouge Communist regime. It is estimated that more than 1.5 million people died as a result of execution, starvation, disease or hard labor. The Paris Peace Accord mandated a cease-fire on October 23, 1991.



GEOGRAPHY

Cambodia is 181,035 sq km and is located in Southeastern Asia. The country is bordered by Thailand, Vietnam, Laos and the Gulf of Thailand. Cambodia has a tropical climate and its terrain consists primarily of low, flat plains with mountainous regions to the north and southwest. Its highest point is Phnum Aoral which is 1,810 meters high.

GOVERNMENT

Cambodia remains in the rebuilding process after years of occupations and brutal war. Recent elections have shown few signs of violence, enabling the country to establish a stabilized government and focus on growth.

Cambodia is a Constitutional Monarchy. The country's king serves primarily as a ceremonial head of state. The active political structure consists of both a prime minister and an elected legislature. The legislature is comprised of a National Assembly and a Senate. While the voters elect members of the National Assembly, the Senate is chosen by parliamentarians, commune councils, the National Assembly and the king.

During 2013 national elections, the opposition (the Cambodian National Rescue Party) boycott the National Assembly. It took nearly a year for CNRP to agree to enter parliament - only when the ruling party agreed to begin electoral and legislative reforms.

THE PEOPLE

Education

Percent of the population considered literate: Citizens able to read and write over the age of 15.

Females	70.5%
Males	84.5%

Ethnic Group Distribution (2013 est.)

Khmer	97.6%
Cham	1.2%
Vietnamese	0.1%
Chinese	0.1%
Other	1%

Religious Group Distribution (2008 est.)

Buddhist	96.9%
Muslim	1.9%

Christian	0.4%
Other	0.8%

Languages

Khmer	96.3%
French and English	3.7%

Rural vs. Urban

Percent of the country's population that lives in urban areas: 20.7%

A majority of Cambodians live in rural villages with populations between 100 and 400 residents.

THE ECONOMY

Cambodia is working on developing partnerships with corporations and donors to assist with rebuilding the country's economy after years of conflict. The country is in a period of economic growth, but as one of Asia's poorest nations, developing a sustainable economic growth plan is a challenge. Cambodia's current areas of economic development include agriculture, construction and garments/textiles. Cambodia is also working to grow both its tourism and mining industries. 17.7% (2012 est.) of the population lives below the poverty line.

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in US\$: 18.1 billion

Currency Exchange Rate: 1 US\$ = 4,066 Riel (2016 est.)

Imports and Exports

- Cambodia imported \$12.32 billion in petroleum products, cigarettes, gold, construction material, machinery, motor vehicles, and pharmaceutical products in 2016.
- Cambodia exported \$8.762 billion in clothing, timber, rubber, rice, fish, tobacco and footwear in 2016.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Oil and gas, timber, gemstones, iron ore, manganese, phosphates, hydropower potential

RESOURCES

- CIA World Fact Book at <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook>
- World Bank's website at www.worldbank.org

All data was reported in 2015 unless otherwise noted.