

Facts and figures

Population

11,430,000 (based on 1998 census);
52 per cent female, 48 per cent male;
16 per cent urban, 84 per cent rural

Annual population growth

2.4 per cent

Languages

Khmer (official); minority languages

Religion

Theravada Buddhism (95 per cent)

Land area

181,035 sq km

Life expectancy (at birth)

54 years

Maternal mortality rate

900 deaths per 100,000 live births (UK:11)

Infant (under one year) mortality rate

110 deaths per 1,000 live births (UK:7)

Under-five mortality rate

174 deaths per 1,000 live births (UK:9)

Proportion of the population below the poverty line¹

36 per cent

Access to health services

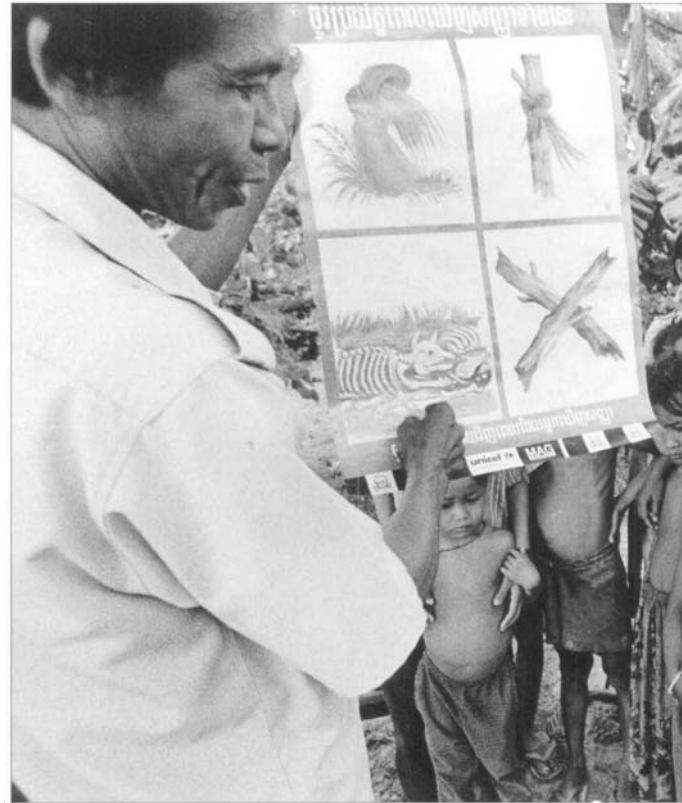
urban 80 per cent,
rural 50 per cent

Access to safe drinking water

urban 61 per cent,
rural 28 per cent

Access to safe sanitation

urban 71 per cent,
rural 6 per cent



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Enrolment in lower-secondary education

urban male 57 per cent,
rural female 12 per cent

Literacy rates²

urban male adult 87 per cent,
rural female adult 52 per cent

Gross domestic product per capita

\$286

Government budget (1998)

\$420 million

Currency

Riel (6,000 Riel = approximately £1 – April 1999)



Estimated inflation rate (1998)

20 per cent

Annual growth rate (1998)

3.5 per cent

Main economic activities

rice (14 per cent of GDP),
other crops and rubber (10 per cent),
livestock (13 per cent),
manufacturing (8 per cent),
fisheries (3.5 per cent),
forest products (3 per cent)

Value of exports (1996)

\$659 million – sawn timber (\$96m);
logs (\$53m); rubber (\$32m)

Sources

- 'Women's Contribution to Development', Cambodia Human Development Report 1998 (Cambodian Ministry of Planning/ United Nations Development Programme, 1998)
- General Population Census of Cambodia (Ministry of Planning, 1998)
- 'Towards a Better Future: An Analysis of the Situation of Children and Women in Cambodia' (UNICEF, 1996)
- Monthly Bulletin of Statistics (Ministry of Economy and Finance, July 1998)
- 'Cambodia: Progress in Recovery and Reform' (The World Bank, 1997)
- *Going Places: Cambodia's Future on the Move* (Global Witness, 1998)

Notes

- 1 The poverty line is defined as an income of approximately 1500 Riels per capita per day, which equals approximately 50 pence at 1997 rates for the Riel.
- 2 According to the United Nations Development Programme report of 1997, the overall literacy rate is estimated at 35 per cent, based on the Human Development Index for Cambodia.
- 3 According to Global Witness, illegal exports from January 1997 to end February 1998 totalled \$577 million.

Dates and events

3rd century AD Founding of coastal state of Funan.

6th century Funan incorporated into inland state of Chenla.

802 Jayavarman II (802–850) founds the Angkor Kingdom, north of the Tonle Sap.

12th century Construction of Angkor Wat temple by Suryavarman II (1113–1150).

1177 Cham pillage and burn the wooden capital city of Angkor to the ground.

c1200 Jayavarman VII (1181–1219) rebuilds the capital in the same place as before and also rebuilds the royal city, Angkor Thom.

1431 Siam (now Thailand) invades and occupies the city of Angkor. The golden age of the Angkor empire draws to a close.

Late 18th century Cambodia loses permanent control over the Mekong Delta to the Vietnamese.

1840s Siamese and Vietnamese armies fight on Cambodian territory, devastating the country.

1864 Cambodia becomes a French protectorate.

1884 Cambodia becomes a French colony, along with Laos and Vietnam in the Union Indochinoise.



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- 1953** Cambodia gains independence from France.
- 1965** Having backed North Vietnam, Prince Sihanouk's government severs links with the United States following deployment of US troops in Vietnam.
- 1970** Lon Nol topples Sihanouk in a *coup d'état*. He becomes the first President of the Khmer Republic.
- 1975** Khmer Rouge under Pol Pot seize power. The country is renamed Democratic Kampuchea.
- 1979** Vietnam invades, following Khmer Rouge attacks, ousts the Pol Pot regime and establishes a pro-Vietnamese Cambodian government.
- 1981** The country is renamed the People's Republic of Kampuchea.
- 1982** Coalition government-in-exile formed in Thailand comprising the Sihanoukists, Khmer Rouge, and the anti-Communist Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF). Despite evidence of genocide, the coalition is recognised by the United Nations as the legitimate government of Cambodia and retains the seat at the UN. This is due to pressure from China and the USA. both virulently anti-Vietnamese.
- 1989** Country renamed State of Cambodia as the last Vietnamese troops prepare to leave, following international agreement.
- 1991** The Paris Peace Agreement is signed.
- 1993** Elections held under the supervision of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC). Country becomes a constitutional monarchy with Norodom Sihanouk as King.
- 1997** Fighting erupts in Phnom Penh and elsewhere between factions of the army loyal to second Prime Minister, Hun Sen, and first Prime Minister, Prince Norodom Ranariddh. Ranariddh flees to France. Hun Sen carries out a crackdown on Ranariddh supporters. A number of deaths reported. Hun Sen consolidates his power.
- 1998** Pol Pot dies in the Khmer Rouge stronghold of Anlong Veng, following factional split in the leadership. Defection of most remaining Khmer Rouge troops to the government.
- 1998** National elections. Hun Sen becomes sole Prime Minister. Ranariddh takes the post of Speaker of the National Assembly.
- 1999** Defection of last two survivors of the Khmer Rouge leadership, Khieu Samphan and Nuon Chea, and alleged capture of Ta Mok, Pol Pot's army chief.

Sources and further reading

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Ian Brown

> *Din Sophia in Sak Phoy village, Battambang, feeds a pig bought with a loan from a local community-development group.*



Nic Dunlop

Oxfam in Cambodia

Most of the communities and projects featured in this book are supported by Oxfam GB. Oxfam's relationship with Cambodia began in August 1979, with a delivery of food and medicine to a country laid waste by the Khmer Rouge revolution. An Oxfam office was opened in Phnom Penh in 1981, and supplies of emergency aid gradually gave way to a programme of infrastructural rehabilitation, together with lobbying and advocacy to end the international isolation of Cambodia.

In 1992 the focus of Oxfam's work in Cambodia changed from technical assistance and support for government institutions to developing the capacity of local non-government organisations serving the needs of

poor and marginalised communities. More than 25 partner groups are currently supported. They work on a range of programmes, including micro-credit schemes, community-based natural resource management, food security, research and advocacy on land-rights issues, support for civil and political rights, conflict resolution, campaigning against domestic violence, and support for basic education and primary health care services.

Cambodia has made great progress since 1979 in restoring civil society and building up the infrastructure necessary for self-sufficiency. But there is still much work to be done.

Cambodia remains one of the poorest nations in Asia, and within the country there are great social inequalities. Alongside six other members of Oxfam International (Oxfam America, Oxfam Hong Kong, Community Aid Abroad, Novib, Oxfam Solidarité (Belgium), and Oxfam Quebec), Oxfam GB will continue to work on community development with its partners in Cambodia, promoting and supporting the rights of all members of society to a secure and sustainable livelihood, good education and health care, freedom from violence, full civil and political rights, and equality between men and women. Oxfam believes that the poverty of individuals, communities, and whole nations is not inevitable, and must be ended.



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△ A villager in Takorm tends his cow, supplied by a livestock bank run by Oxfam's local partner, Aphivat Strey

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