



ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF CAMBODIA



**NATIONAL REPORT FOR THE MID-TERM REVIEW
OF THE SIXTH ASIAN AND PACIFIC
POPULATION CONFERENCE**

MINISTRY OF PLANNING

Phnom Penh, July 2018

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Abbreviations

ANC	Antenatal Care
APMD	Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration
APPC	Asia and Pacific Population Conference
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CDHS	Cambodia Demographic and Health Survey
CHRC	Cambodian Human Rights Committee
CIPS	Cambodia Inter-Censal Population Survey
CMDGs	Cambodia Millennium Development Goals
COMPETENCE	Comprehensive Programme to Enhance Technology, Engineering and Science Education
CRS	Civil Registration System
CSE	Comprehensive Sexuality Education
CSES	Cambodia Socioeconomic Survey
D&D	Decentralization and De-concentration
EMIS	Education Management Information system
EPO	European Patent Office
ESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
ESP	Education Strategic Plan
FIES	Food Insecurity Experience Scale
FSDS	Financial Sector Development Strategy
GPCC	General Population Census in Cambodia
GSPD	General Secretariat for Population and Development
HEFs	Health Equity Funds
HSP	Health Strategic Plan
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IMR	Infant Mortality Rate
IOM	International Organization for Migration
ISAF	Implementation of Social Accountability Framework
KOICA	Korea International Cooperation Agency
LMIC	Lower Middle-Income Country
MIPAA	Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing
MMR	Maternal Mortality Ratio
MOEYS	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport
MOH	Ministry of Health
MOLVT	Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training
MOP	Ministry of Planning
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MOWA	Ministry of Women's Affairs
NAP-DRR	National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction
NCDM	National Committee for Disaster Management
NIS	National Institute of Statistics
NPP	National Population Policy
NPRD	National Program to Rehabilitate and Develop Cambodia
NRHP	National Reproductive Health Programme
NSDP	National Strategic Development Plan
NSRSH	National Strategy for Reproductive and Sexual Health

NSS	National Statistical System
ODA	Official Development Assistance
PCT	Patent Cooperation Treaty
PoA	Programme of Action
RACHA	Reproductive and Child Health Alliance
RGC	Royal Government of Cambodia
RS	Rectangular Strategy
SDGs	Sustained Development Goals
SEDP-I	First Socioeconomic Development Plan
SEDP-II	Second Socioeconomic Development Plan
SMP	Statistical Master Plan
SRH	Sexual and Reproductive Health
TFR	Total Fertility Rate
TWGs	Technical Working Groups
U5MR	Under-5 Mortality Rate
UN	United Nations
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund

Foreword

The Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration (APMD) outlined progress on population and development and highlighted region-specific policy directions and priority actions to ensure the effective implementation of the Programme of Action (PoA) of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in the region.

The Ministerial declaration put forward 116 recommendations designed to provide an effective response to population and development challenges beyond 2014 and link to the development agenda beyond 2015. The recommendations were grouped under eleven thematic areas including poverty eradication and employment, health, sexual and reproductive health and rights, education, gender equality and women's empowerment, adolescents and young people, ageing, international migration, urbanization and internal migration, population and sustainable development, and data and statistics.

In this connection, the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) has been committed to implementing the APMD's recommendations through the national development policy framework to achieve the global initiatives and goals with high success rates of the implementation of the Programme of Action (PoA) of ICPD and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The preparation of the National Report for the Mid-Term Review of APMD for the APPC has been prepared by the General Secretariat for Population and Development (GSPD) of the Ministry of Planning (MOP) in collaboration with UNFPA and through a participatory approach with various stakeholders including concerned ministries and institutions, representatives of development partners and civil society. The report presents the results of Cambodia's in-country review conducted through a multi-sectoral and consultative approach as required for the upcoming regional meeting on the Mid-Term Review of the implementation of the APMD. The Report is structured according to the template for national reports provided by ESCAP/UNFPA.

The Ministry of Planning is deeply indebted to concerned ministries, development partners and civil societies especially the United Nations Population Funds for contributing their inputs for the preparation of this national report.

We are confident that this report will serve as a relevant input for the preparation of the Mid-Term Review of the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration for the Asian and Pacific Population Conference.

Phnom Penh, July, 2018

**Senior Minister
Minister of Planning**

CHHAY THAN

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration (APMD) on Population and Development adopted by the Sixth Asia and Pacific Population Conference (APPC, September 2013) was endorsed by 38 out of 42 participating countries. The APMD outlined progress on population and development and highlighted policy directions for effective implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action (Cairo, 1994). The Declaration recommended conducting a regional intergovernmental meeting in 2018 to review implementation of the POA and the recommendations of the APMD in preparation for the Seventh APPC (2023).

There is being considerable overlap between the APMD and SDGs adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2015 means that the two reinforce each other and effective implementation of the APMD recommendations would also contribute towards the achievement of the SDGs. To the extent data availability permits, the Review is based (though not exclusively) on SDG Indicators.

This Report was prepared by the General Secretariat for Population and Development (GSPD) of the Ministry of Planning (MOP) in collaboration with UNFPA and concerned ministries and institutions, representatives of development partners and civil society.

From the early 1990s, the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) has rebuilt and developed the country within a market-based economy pursuing an indicative planning approach. The Rectangular Strategy (RS) and the National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP) have together provided a national development policy framework that has enabled Cambodia to achieve a high level of economic growth and considerable success in the implementation of the APMD. These were grouped under thematic areas:

- (a) **Poverty eradication and employment:** Cambodia has achieved high rates of economic growth during the past few years leading to significant declines in poverty and inequality. Prevalence of extreme hunger has been eliminated. However, there are sub-national disparities in income and the incidence of poverty varies widely across the provinces. Moreover, many of those who have moved out of poverty live just barely above the poverty line and remain highly vulnerable to falling back into poverty. As a safeguard, RGC has adopted a National Social Protection Policy Framework for 2016-2025 with two main pillars: Social Assistance for Poor and Vulnerable People, and Social Insurance.
- (b) **Health:** There have been significant achievements in the health sector: declines in maternal and child mortality, reduction in the spread of communicable diseases, and a country-wide expansion of Health Equity Funds (HEFs) for the poor. Considerable expansion and improvements in the health sector have resulted in increasing access to quality health care.
- (c) **Sexual and reproductive health and rights:** Youth and adolescents who comprise 22 per cent of the population face many sexual and reproductive health concerns such as STIs, unwanted pregnancies, unsafe abortion, HIV/AIDS and sexual abuse. The RGC has sought to address the sexual and reproductive health (SRH) issues of adolescents and youth through the *National Strategy for Sexual and Reproductive Health in Cambodia 2017-2020*. As a result, considerable progress has been achieved in improving the availability and delivery of SRH services.

- (d) **Education:** Overall performance in the education sector has been satisfactory and Cambodia has achieved a high level of literacy. Also, an increasing proportion of students have continued education and the primary completion rate has risen. However, slower progress has been registered at the secondary school level. Disparities in school attendance between girls and boys are now almost non-existent and secondary school level gender disparities have been eliminated.
- (e) **Gender equality and women's empowerment:** Overall, the position of Cambodian women has been improving. Gender parity has been achieved in education at the upper secondary level and at the tertiary level the ratio of females to males has more than doubled since 2000 from 38 to 85. However, in wage employment the proportion of women has remained stagnant. Female representation in public sector employment and elected offices has increased significantly.
- (f) **Adolescents and young people:** Recognizing the youth as a very important resource for economic, social, cultural and environmental development and maintenance of peace, the RGC launched a comprehensive National Policy on Youth Development in 2011. The implementation of the Policy has taken into account all the relevant recommendations of the APMD.
- (g) **Ageing:** Taking note of the rapidly rising proportion of older persons in the population, the RGC revised the Policy for the Elderly (2003) and widened its scope, renaming it the National Ageing Policy 2017-2030. The goals of the policy are to ensure that older persons are enabled to fully participate with freedom and dignity for as long as they wish in all activities and to ensure that younger persons are better equipped to lead a more productive, healthy, active and dignified life in old age.
- (h) **International migration:** The RGC has put in place the National Employment Policy 2015-2025 aimed at absorbing productively the large number of young Cambodians entering the domestic labour market and the Policy on Labour Migration for Cambodia 2015-2018 aimed at responding to foreign labour market demands and to promote skills development, productive use of remittances and support successful return and reintegration of return migrants. Human trafficking remains a concern in Cambodia. With the support of the international community, the RGC has built a comprehensive legal and institutional framework to address human trafficking.
- (i) **Urbanization and internal migration:** The RGC has attached priority on urban development and protecting the rights of migrants. Despite the rapid increase in the urban population, the proportion of urban dwellers having access to potable water and sanitation services has increased and it is evident that the proportion of slum population in Cambodia's urban areas has declined.

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