

REPORT ON

# URBANIZATION and its LINKAGE to SOCIO-ECONOMIC and ENVIRONMENTAL Issues







## PREFACE

UNFPA helps countries to address emerging demographic issues such as urbanization in development and poverty eradication policies, plans and strategies. It assists countries to analyse the socio-economic implications of urbanization and provide assistance to design policies that respond to the social needs and rights of people living in cities.



Cambodia is currently undergoing an incredible rapid change, and after years of civil strife the country's economy is catching up with that of its neighboring countries. With the fast economic growth, we have observed a large rural urban migration in the country. The rural urban migration report provided the government of Cambodia and UNFPA with the evidence that many people leave the villages to move to the cities, mainly to Phnom Penh, in search of employment and better education. The recent population figures show that the country's urban population grew at a rate of 3.7% annually since the last census of 2008, but more worryingly are the population projections which predict that the Cambodian urban population will grow by around 29.5% in the next 15 years. By 2030, 5.4 million Cambodians will live in a city, with the majority of people living in Phnom Penh.

When we talk about urbanization in the Asia region, it has often been the rapid growth of mega-cities which have captured much of the public attention and the development actors' responsiveness. With this report we want to draw the attention to the fact that urbanization is a reality in Cambodia and that in the coming years, the urban growth will continue. With that urban growth, we will see that many of the problems which we have observed in those large cities of this region will also emerge here.

The impact of urbanization on people's lives in Cambodia has not been sufficiently documented. The UNFPA Cambodia country office therefore decided to commission this report, based primarily on evidence from desk reviews, backed up with interviews with key informants to explore the current impact of urbanization on socio-economic and environmental issues in Cambodia. It is the first report which also looks at the sexual and reproductive health status of people in urban settings and draws the attention to the existence of poverty in urban settings.

With this overview of current issues and challenges of urbanization in Cambodia, but also with the proposal of recommendations how the current urban growth might be more sustainable, UNFPA will continue to draw the attention to the situation of women and young people in Cambodia, their access to reproductive health services, but more importantly the fulfillment of their reproductive rights. We call upon planners, policymakers and the donor community to take proactive measures to ensure that people are the main actors who are benefiting from the current urban transformation, rather than becoming the victims of it.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, belonging to Dr. Derveeuw Marc, G.L. The signature is stylized and fluid, with a large loop at the end.

**Dr. Derveeuw Marc, G.L.**  
UNFPA Representative in Cambodia  
Phnom Penh, November 2014



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## ACRONYMS

ADB	ASEAN Development Bank
ANC	Antenatal Care
CIPS	Cambodia Inter-Censal Population Survey
COM	Council of Ministers
CCC	Cooperation Committee for Cambodia
CDC	Council for the Development of Cambodia
CSES	Cambodia Socio-Economic Survey
CDHS	Cambodia Demographic and Health Survey
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
HCMC	Ho Chi Minh City
IUD	Intrauterine Device
INGO	(International) Non-Governmental Organization
LICADHO	Cambodian Leagues for the Promotion and Defense of Human Rights
MOP	Ministry of Planning
MOWA	Ministry of Women's Affairs
MLMUPC	Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning, and Construction
MSIC	Marie Stopes International-Cambodia
NIS	National Institute of Statistics
ODA	Overseas Development Assistance
Pop	Population
RACHA	Reproductive and Child Health Alliance
RHAC	Reproductive Health Association of Cambodia
RGC	Royal Government of Cambodia
RC2004/2011	Urban Reclassification Criteria 2004/2011
SRH	Sexual and Reproductive Health
STT	Sahmakum Teang Tnaut
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UN-HABITAT	United Nations Human Settlement Program
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UPDF	Urban Poor Development Fund

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