

Preface

The National Report on *Demographic and Socio-economic Situation of Indigenous Peoples in Cambodia* is the first report in Cambodian history created based on the existing data to meet the need for comprehensive, detailed, and consistent national information about indigenous peoples in Cambodia for planning and development activities of indigenous peoples in Cambodia, which has consistently received the most support and attention from the Royal Government of Cambodia under the wise leadership of **Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen**, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia. In this context, this report provides general and detailed information on the demographic, socio-economic, and living conditions of indigenous peoples in Cambodia as a basis for planning and development activities of the target indigenous peoples, relevant research, and updates on indigenous peoples' information in Cambodia.

The National Report on the Demographic and Socio-economic Situation of Indigenous Peoples in Cambodia is a joint achievement between the Ministry of Planning and the Ministry of Rural Development with the emotional support of the United Nations Population Fund and UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs / Division for Social Policy and Development, Cambodia Indigenous People Organization, and the financial support from Germany's The Heinrich Böll Foundation, the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact, OXFAM in Cambodia, Diakonia, and Norwegian People's Aid, NPA through the Cambodian Indigenous Peoples Organization. This five-chapter report (first on the introduction, second on the demographic situation, third on the socio-economic situation, fourth on housing, land, and collective ownership, and fifth on conclusions) was organized with the approval on the forms, the key points, and contents through 14 consultative meetings between the technical teams and the leaders of the two ministries, together with the members of Cambodia Indigenous People Alliance including CIPO, CIYA, CIPL, OPKC, HA, IRAM, IADC, and CIWA, and with a wide-ranging consultation workshop from all the stakeholders with 64 participants from 17 ministries/institutions, national and international organizations working with the indigenous peoples in Cambodia and the representatives of the indigenous communities in Cambodia at Sunway Hotel on June 12, 2018, under the chairmanship of **Lok Chumteav Mat Mara**, Secretary of State of the Ministry of Rural Development.

Taking this opportunity, on behalf of the leadership of the Ministry of Planning and Ministry of Rural Development, we would like to express our profound thanks to His Excellency

Dr. **Poch Bunnak**, Secretary of State of the Ministry of Planning, for leading the team to write this report, and also to the team of the Ministry of Planning's General Secretariat for Population and Development, to the team of Ministry of Rural Development's Indigenous People Development Department, to the members of Cambodia Indigenous People Alliance, especially Cambodia Indigenous People Organization, who initiated and actively participated and cooperated very well in the process of preparing this report. We would also like to thank Germany's Heinrich Boll Foundation, the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact, Oxfam Cambodia, Diaconia, and Norwegian People's Aid for financial support in preparing the report. Thanks to all the relevant ministries representatives and institutions who contributed additional inputs to make this report more comprehensive and accurate.

We strongly believe that the National **Report on the Demographic and Socio-economic Situation of Indigenous Peoples in Cambodia** will provide important preliminary information regarding indigenous peoples' demographic and socio-economic situations in Cambodia to development planners, investors, researchers, and stakeholders in the development of indigenous peoples in Cambodia.

Phnom Penh, Date:

Senior Minister
Ministry of Planning

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CHHAY Than Paditha Sopheachar

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Summary

This report is designed to provide preliminary details on indigenous peoples' demographic, socio-economic, and living conditions based on existing data as a basis for indigenous development planning and research.

By using the indigenous mother tongue languages for identification, there are indigenous groups in Cambodia with a total population of 171,193, equivalent to 1.34% of the total Cambodian population in 2008 and 183,831, equivalent to 1.25% of the total Cambodian population in 2013 (the growth rate of 0.51% per year). Of the 22 indigenous groups, there are only six groups, each having more than 10,000 people. They are Tampuan, Pnong, Kreung, Kuy, Jarai, and Prey, which account for 88% of the 22 indigenous peoples. Although indigenous peoples live in almost all provinces/capital nowadays, the vast majority live in only six provinces: Ratanak Kiri, Mondul Kiri, Kratie, Stung Treng, Kampong Thom, and Preah Vihear, accounting for 92.4% of the indigenous peoples in 2013.

1. Indigenous Peoples' Demographics

The indigenous peoples are a young population, with the population aged under 15 years old was 41.7% in 2008 and decreased to 37.4% in 2013. However, the working-age indigenous population also increased between 2008 and 2013, with an annual growth rate of 1.23%. By age group in 2008, children under the age of 5 accounted for 13.6%, children 5-17 years of age accounted for 34.4%, the 18-35 years of age accounted for 28.8%, the middle-aged 36 to 59 years old accounted for 17.8%, and the elderly aged 60 years old and above accounted for 5.4% of the total indigenous population. In 2013, the percentage distribution of these age groups varied slightly.

The percentage of indigenous women is quite similar to that of the general population of Cambodia. It is not significantly changed (50.9% in 2008 and 51.1% in 2013). In terms of sex ratio by age group, the sex ratio of indigenous peoples is more significant than 100 for young people and gradually declines as the age groups increase.

The indigenous families are larger than the average family size of the Cambodian population, with an average of 5.3 members per family in 2008 and 4.9 in 2013. Female-headed families accounted for 14% in 2008 and 22% in 2013. About 18% of indigenous families were

families, with one indigenous spouse and the other spouse belonging to other majority or minority ethnic groups.

The marital status of indigenous peoples is generally similar to that of the entire Cambodian population and varied slightly from 2008 to 2013. In general, unmarried indigenous peoples are lower among women than men, but widowed, divorced, and separated are higher.

However, the marital status of indigenous peoples varies significantly from one indigenous group to another. In general, indigenous people get married earlier than the Cambodian population by an average of two years. The average age at their first marriage is 22.7, while the Cambodian population marries 24.9 years old. Indigenous men get married three years earlier than Cambodian men (23.4 years of age vs. 26.2 years of age). Indigenous women get married two years earlier than Cambodian women (22.1 years of age vs. 23.7 years of age).

Early marriage leads to early childbearing and many births. The gross birth rate of indigenous peoples was 3.4 per 100 married women in 2008 and 3.7 in 2013. Disaggregated by age group, married indigenous women have more children than married Cambodian women of all ages, especially women in their 20s and older.

Data on age at first childbearing shows that married indigenous women with their first child under 20 years old are almost twice the proportion of their counterpart married Cambodian women (39% vs. 21.6%). In comparison, this proportion for those with their first child at age 20 or above is lower than that of Cambodian women for all age groups. The percentage of married indigenous women with their first child at age 20-24 years old is 43.3%, at age 25-29 years old is 13.9% and at age 30 years old and above is 3.8% (compared to 52.7%, 18.6%, and 7.1%, respectively, for Cambodian women). However, indigenous women are more likely to give birth to traditional midwives (65.6% of births in the past 12 months, compared to 9.8% of Cambodian women), especially the Kreung, Tampuan, Jarai, Kavet, and Kuy. It should also be noted that only one-fifth (20.3%) of indigenous children aged under five are registered at birth. The indigenous peoples with a significant proportion of birth registration for their under-1-year-old children are Preav, Kavet, Pnong, Kreung, Tampuan, and Jarai.

Overall, the under-one mortality rate of indigenous children was high and slightly decreased (139 deaths in 2008 and 126 deaths in 2013 per 1,000 live births, compared to 33 deaths among the overall Cambodian babies in 2013). There are no data on indigenous peoples' maternal mortality rates.

Indigenous peoples migrate less than the Cambodian population (nearly 10% of all indigenous peoples, 9% among rural dwellers, and nearly 53% among urban dwellers). Most indigenous peoples migrate from one rural area to another (85.4%), followed by migration between urban areas (6.6%) and migration from urban areas to rural areas (5.9%). In general, indigenous women move to urban areas more than men. The main reasons for migration are 72.1% family move and marriage, 10.1% repatriation, and 9.9% job search.

The number of indigenous older people aged 60 and over was 5.4% in 2008 and 6.7% in 2013. In general, older women over the age of 60 outnumber their men counterparts. But the difference is smaller among indigenous older peoples than among the general Cambodian population. Two small indigenous groups had the highest proportion of the older population: Sa'och (29%) and Cha'ong (10%) in 2013.

2. Socio-economic situation

Education

Indigenous people receive less education than Cambodians due to lower school enrollment rates, late school enrollment, and school dropouts. Only about one-third of indigenous peoples can read and write Khmer (34.3% of the indigenous peoples aged seven years and over and 33.8% of the indigenous peoples aged 15 years and over), and men generally have a higher literacy rate than women. Nearly 50% of indigenous children have never been enrolled in school. Less than 50% are currently attending school (49.03% among the 6-13 age group and 43.56% among the 6-18 age group). Although dropouts are low among boys under the age of 14 and girls under the age of 15, dropouts begin to rise significantly between 14 and 15. Dropouts are the highest in the age group of 16-18. In addition, indigenous peoples are more likely to attend school at grades lower than their school age, which their late enrollment or grade repetition may cause.

Among the indigenous population aged 15 and over, almost 66% did not attend a school or complete any educational degrees. In comparison, 24.1% attended only primary school (in total, 90% had little or no education). About 10% have at least completed lower secondary education, of which 4% have joined upper secondary education, and less than 1% have received a high school diploma. However, the data show that younger indigenous peoples have a better education rate than the older indigenous peoples, and men are more educated than women.

Employment and Economic Situation

Indigenous peoples have higher economically active and employment rates, and there is little difference between men and women. Among indigenous peoples aged 15 and over, 87.1% were economically active (86.6% were employed, and 0.5% were unemployed), and 12.9% were not economically active. The employment rate is 87.7% among men and 85.5% among women. According to different indigenous groups, the larger indigenous groups tend to have higher labor force participation rates, such as Tampuan, Pnong, Kreung, Preu, Kuy, Kraol, and Kavet.

However, the majority of indigenous peoples work without pay (57.3%) and are self-employed (38%), with more men being self-employed (58.9%) and the majority of women working without pay (78.4%). In terms of the economic sectors, the vast majority of indigenous peoples aged 15 and over are employed in agriculture (93.3% of the population, 90.6% of men, and 95.9% of women), a few in the industry sector (total 1.6%, men 1.8%, and women 1.4%), and in the services sector (total 5.1%, men 7.6%, and women 2.8%).

Health and Hygiene

In Cambodia, there is no data on indigenous peoples' health problems other than the data on disability from the censuses and intercensal population surveys, and the data on disability, maternal health, access to health and child care services from Cambodian Socio-Economic Surveys containing only the information about local ethnic minority groups in Cambodia. According to the 2015 Cambodia Socio-Economic Survey, 14% of local ethnic minorities were sick in 30 days before the survey, with children and the elderly being sick the most and the working-age population being sick the least. In addition, boys and older men were twice as likely to be ill as girls and older women, and adult women were 2.7 times as likely to be sick as adult men. The fact that boys were more likely to be sick than girls can be explained by the fact that boys tend to accompany their parents to work in agriculture or collect non-timber forest products. The most common diseases are malaria, respiratory diseases, typhoid fever, and tuberculosis. The health services visited include pharmacies, public hospitals, and private clinics.

For maternal, infant, and child health care services, the data show that women with children under five years old at the time of the survey were more likely to receive antenatal care from midwives (58.8%), traditional midwives (20.6%), and nurses (12, 9%). Ethnic minorities

were more likely to give birth at home (53%) and hospitals (38%). Births delivered at health centers accounted for only 6%. Of all mothers who breastfed, 32.2% started breastfeeding within one hour, 56.4% within two hours of birth, and 11.4% within 4-5 hours. In particular, all mothers of under two years old children continued to breastfeed (100%).

Disability data shows that nearly 1.5% of the indigenous population has some kind of disability. Nearly 70% are disabled after birth, and most are disabled in seeing and in movement.

Access to sanitary toilet facilities and access to safe drinking water remains a problem for indigenous peoples, as the majority of households do not have access to sanitary toilet facilities (more than 80% in 2013) and do not have access to safe drinking water (more than 60% in 2013); as the majority of them use rivers, lakes, and streams as the source of drinking water.

3. Housing and ownership

In 2013, more than 95% of indigenous families had their own houses (96.3% in 2013). The majority of indigenous households used kerosene lamps and batteries as the main source of light. In contrast, 20.6% of households used electricity or their own generators as the main light source in 2013. For the primary fuel type for cooking, most indigenous households used firewood (95% in 2013).

For household items for information and communication, almost a third of indigenous households have television, 110% have mobile phones, and less than 1% have internet. For traveling, 76.1% of indigenous households had motorbikes, 2.2% had cars, 9.1% had tractors, 7.8% had boats, and 37.4% had bicycles (2013).

No data is available on lands and private properties of indigenous peoples. For collective land ownership of the indigenous communities, see 4.2.2 for details.