

DISASTER MANAGEMENT STATUS IN THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA



COUNTRY OVERVIEW

The Kingdom of Cambodia is situated in the Southwest of the Indochinese peninsular and has a rich culture that dates back 2,000 years ago. The country has a land area of 181,035 square kilometres and population of 14.9 million people¹. Like in the rest of Southeast Asia, Cambodia's climate is characterized by two main seasons: the monsoon, which brings rain from mid-May to October, and dry season from November to April².

Cambodia continues to enjoy robust growth, albeit at a slightly slower pace. Real growth in 2014 is estimated to have reached 7%. The garment sector, together with construction and services, in particular, finance and real estate continues to propel growth. However, the 2015 and 2016 projection for economic growth is about 6.9%, as it confronts stronger competition in garment exports, continued weak agriculture sector growth, and softer growth in the tourism sector.

Poverty continues to fall in Cambodia, although the pace has declined significantly. The poverty rate was 19% in 2011³. World Bank estimates suggest that Cambodia achieved the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) of halving poverty in 2009. However, the vast majority of families who escaped poverty were only able to do so by a small margin.

Human development, particularly in the areas of health and education, remains an important development priority for Cambodia. Cambodia has made good strides in improving maternal health, early child care, and primary education programs in rural areas. The number of deaths per 100,000 live births decreased from 472 in 2005 to 170 in 2014, the under-five child mortality rate decreased from 124 per 1,000 live births in 1998 to 35 per 1,000 in 2014, and the net primary school admission rate increased from 81% in 2001 to 94.3% in 2012.

The key challenge going forward is to stimulate the agricultural and tourism sectors to once again become strong engines of growth supporting poverty reduction, as well as to expand and sustain growth in manufacturing including garments⁴.

COUNTRY DISASTER RISK PROFILE

In recent years, Cambodia has experienced significant developments not only in political and security but also in economic and social aspects. At the same time, the extreme typhoons and floods had caused considerable damage and losses in social, production, infrastructure and cross-cutting sectors. In 2009, typhoon Ketsana hit Cambodia flattening houses, damaging buildings, and causing massive flooding and caused an estimated the total damage and loss to be USD132 million, of which USD58 million in damages and USD74 million in losses⁵. The 2011 floods caused the immediate direct social impacts on the affected community were devastating and an estimated USD451 million in damages and USD174 million in losses⁶; and subsequently,

¹ Ministry of Planning of the Kingdom of Cambodia, Population Projection, 2010

² UNDP Cambodia, October 2015 [<http://www.kh.undp.org/content/cambodia/en/home/countryinfo/>]

³ National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP) 2014-2018, Ministry of Planning of the Kingdom of Cambodia

⁴ World Bank Cambodia, April 2015 [<http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/cambodia/overview>]

⁵ Typhoon Ketsana Comprehensive Cambodia Post-Disaster Needs Assessment, PDNA-January 2010

⁶ ADB Flood Damage Emergency Reconstruction Project-Preliminary Assessment, March 2012

the 2013 floods resulted in the total value of damage and loss amounts to USD356.3 million, of which USD153.27 million represents the destruction of physical assets in the affected areas and USD203.03 million represents estimated losses in production and economic flows⁷.

Cambodia is characterized by the extensive disaster risk intrinsically linked with the weather and climate variability/change. Addressing the risks emanating from the recurrent droughts, floods and typhoons, for example, requires the practical strategy that enables climate adaptation in agriculture, water and rural development sectors. The common threads among disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and sustainable development have been recognized and substantive progressed in developing the strategies and policies to address the outstanding integrated issues in the recent years.

The Strategic National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction (SNAP-DRR) 2008-2013 which set out clear priorities and launched by the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) in March 2009. The action plan in its specific objectives clearly set out priorities for a) improving common understanding, knowledge and awareness of disaster risk reduction; b) monitoring the implementation of disaster risk reduction initiatives in the country; c) mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction into development plans, policies and projects; d) enhancing cooperation between disaster management and development stakeholders; e) improving efficiency of resource allocation and utilization in disaster reduction; and f) orienting donor support to ensure resourcing towards government priorities. The above priorities and actions thoroughly support integration with sustainable development and climate change adaptation.

The RGC has shown the strong commitment to address climate change by ratifying the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 1996 and the Kyoto-Protocol in 2003. In 2006, it established the National Committee on Climate Change (NCCC) comprising high-level representatives from 20 line ministries-institutions. The Prime Minister is the honorary chair of NCCC from 2009. In October 2006, the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) completed the National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA), which included 39 priority adaptation projects in sectors such as-agriculture, water resources, coastal zone management, and human health.

HYOGO FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION (HFA) 2005-2015

The Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005-2015 “Building the resilience of nations and communities to disasters” was adopted by 168 Governments at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, held on 18-22 January 2005 in Kobe, Hyogo Prefecture, Japan. The HFA sets out three strategic goals and outlines five priorities for action, which cover the main areas of disaster risk reduction.

STRATEGIC GOALS

1. The more effective integration of disaster risk considerations into sustainable development policies, planning and programming at all levels, with a special emphasis on disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness and vulnerability reduction.

⁷ Cambodia Post-Flood Early Recovery Needs Assessment, PFERNA-March 2014

2. The development and strengthening of institutions, mechanisms and capacities at all levels, in particular at the community level, that can systematically contribute to building resilience to hazards.
3. The systematic incorporation of risk reduction approaches into the design and implementation of emergency preparedness, response and recovery programmes in the reconstruction of affected communities.

HFA PRIORITIES FOR ACTION 2005-2015

1. Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation.
2. Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning.
3. Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels
4. Reduce the underlying risk factors.
5. Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels.

PROGRESS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF HFA PRIORITIES FOR ACTION 2005-2015

1. Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation:

Some of the key policies, legislations and strategies that available at NCDM those could be instrumental in integrating DRR, CCA and Sustainable Development Goal are as follows:

- Developed and introduced the National Contingency Plan (NCP) for disaster response;
- Developed an Action Plan on Climate Change for disaster risk management sector;
- Developed the Provincial Contingency Plan (PCP) for disaster responding at 17 provinces out of 25 cities/provinces;
- Mainstreamed disaster risk reduction (DRR) into Education, Health, Agriculture and Water Resource sectors by incorporated disaster management activities into the Safety Village, Commune/Sangkat Policy Guidelines.
- In accordance with the necessity after 2005, the Royal Government of Cambodia has established the Commune/Sangkat Committees for Disaster Management which complemented to the existed National Committee for Disaster Management, City/Provincial Committee for Disaster Management and Town/District/Khan Committee for Disaster Management;
- Sub-decree No. 61 ANKR.BK, dated June 29, 2006 on the establishment of the Commune Committee for Disaster Management (CCDM);
- Formulated and promulgated a Strategic National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction (SNAP-DRR) 2008-2013, dated December 12, 2008;
- Direction No. 315 NCDM, dated July 21, 2010 on the establishment of the Village Disaster Management Group (VDMG) for the implementation of CBDRM;
- Sub-decree on the establishment of the Cambodian Food Reserve System in order for the disaster response to victims or other emergency events with effectively and timely, dated September 12, 2012;

- In cooperation with organizational partners to be regularly organized the National Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Forums in every 6 month of 27 forums since 2005 up to 2014;
- Incorporated the Disaster Management into the National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP) 2014-2018, dated May 30, 2014;
- Resolution on the establishment of the coordination task force for preparedness, emergency response and recovery which composed of multi-line ministries/institutions, dated July 4, 2014;
- Developed a Strategic Plan on Climate Change for the Disaster Risk Management Sector 2014-2023.
- Updated and promulgated the National Action Plan on Disaster Risk Reduction 2014-2018 (NAP-DRR), dated January 6, 2015;

2. Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning:

- Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology (MOWRAM) has a mandate to forecast, analyze and disseminate the weather forecast, flood level and early warning information to the line ministries/institutions, state and private media (Radio and Television) for further dissemination;
- National Committee for Disaster Management with the support of UNDP has developed the Disaster Loss and Damage Database in Cambodia (CamDi) [Adapted to the DesInventar Methodology];
- Promulgated the guideline for implementation of the disaster data reporting formats with the support of UNDP;
- Obtained and continued to disseminate the disaster situation update from ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Center);

3. Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels:

- Collaborated with organizational partners in obtaining the support from Ministry of Post and Telecommunications to pilot a short code for dissemination the early warning system voice messages to the target communities through mobile phones in order to take action in risk mitigation and building resilience;
- Developed and disseminated the technical guidebook on formulation the contingency plan to sub-national committees for disaster management;
- Organized a retreat meeting between the Royal Government Cambodia and Non-Government Organizations to brief on the flood response intervention;
- Promote the public awareness on disaster prevention at communities in order to mitigate the maximize damages and losses of lives and properties (posters);
- Developed a guidebook on contingency plan for disaster risk reduction in education sector, dated 26 September 2014;
- Developed guideline on utilization and generating disaster information and damage and loss data from Cambodia Disaster Information application (CamDi), with the support of UNDP, dated July 8, 2014;

- Developed technical guideline for formulating the preparedness and emergency response plan for the sub-national level, 2013;
- Developed a guidebook for training of trainers (TOT) on Disaster Risk Management for Disaster Response for sub-national committees for disaster management;
- Developed training manual of disaster risk reduction, 2008-2010;
- Guideline for Training of trainers (TOT) on Disaster Risk Reduction for the sub-national level, 2010;
- Developed guideline for training of trainers (TOT) on Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) for the sub-national level.

4. Reduce the underlying risk factors:

- Mainstreamed Disaster Risk Reduction related to climate change by identified the disaster risk linkage with climate change;
- Enhanced the food security in the drought and flood prone areas through the expanding aquaculture, constructing and maintaining dikes, reservoirs and irrigation systems;
- Strengthened capacity of the emergency response service and integrated disaster risk reduction into health sector and assured that all health centres being resilient to disasters.

5. Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels:

- Established of the Cambodian Food Reserve System in order for the disaster response to victims or other emergency events in timely manner which was in needs of food and seeds for the recovery (food stock consists of paddy, milled rice and quality rice seed including non-seasonal short-term rice, vegetable, other crop seeds and reserve fund);
- Identified the tasks and responsibilities of the line ministries/institutions in the Cambodian Food Reserve System;
- Conducted the top-table exercise and simulation exercise at national and sub-national levels.

IMPLEMENTING THE SENDAI FRAMEWORK FOR DRR 2015-2030

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) 2015-2030 was adopted by the representatives from 187 countries had gathered from 14 to 18 March 2015 at the Third UN World Conference in Sendai City of Miyagi Prefecture, Japan.

The goal of Sendai Framework is to prevent new and reduce existing disaster risk through the implementation of integrated and inclusive economic, structural, legal, social, health, cultural, educational, environmental, technological, political and institutional measures that prevent and reduce the hazard exposure and vulnerability to disaster, increase preparedness for response and recovery, and thus strengthen resilience.

PROGRESS ON IMPLEMENTING THE SENDAI FRAMEWORK FOR DRR 2015-2030 IN THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA

- Law on Disaster Management has been enacted by the National Assembly on June 8, 2015 at the fourth plenary session of the fifth legislature and entirely approved by the Senate on its form and legality on June 30, 2015 at the seventh plenary session of the third legislature and has been endorsed and promulgated by Preah Reach Kram, NS/RKM/0715/007, on 10 July 2015;
- Translated the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 document into national language (Khmer) and published in both languages of Khmer and English, on 7 August 2015;
- Conducted the dissemination workshops on Disaster Management Law along with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 had been completely disseminated to all ministries-institutions and cities-provinces (25 city-provinces) from 17 August 2015 to 20 September 2016;
- Translated the terminology on DRR [Reissued on 23rd December 2015 with technical corrections] into the national language (Khmer) and ready for the final version;
- Organized the ASEAN Day for Disaster Management (ADDM) and the International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR) in Phnom Penh on 10 October 2015 under the themes of «ASEAN is Resilient as One» and «Knowledge for Live» with the honourable presence of His Excellency LE LUONG MINH, Secretary-General of ASEAN;
- In collaboration with AHA Center, a workshop ONE ASEAN ONE RESPONSE ROADSHOW was organized in Phnom Penh on 28 October 2015;
- Successfully hosted the 3rd ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management (3rd AMMDM), the 4th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the AADMER (COP-4), the 27th ASEAN Committee for Disaster Management (27th ACDM) and other related meetings held on 14, 15 and 16 December 2015 in Phnom Penh;
- Royal Decree on the organization and functioning of the National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM), was promulgated on 29 December 2015;

- Resolution of the Royal Government of Cambodia on appointment of the Components of the National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM) was issued on 3 March 2016,
- The Cambodia Disaster Loss and Damage Database (CamDi) was established in August 2012 under the technical and financial support of UNDP. It was officially launched on 8 July 2014. Currently, UNDP is continuing to support the implementation of a Regional-Capacity Development Assistance (R-CDTA) project on «Enhanced Use of Disaster Risk Information for Decision Making in Southeast Asia» in partnership with Asian Development Bank (ADB). The project aims to strengthen the capacity of selected national agencies in collecting and using disaster risk information for decision making.
- Country Disaster Risk Management Status Report (Kingdom of Cambodia) for the period from 2005-2015, is being compiled and incorporated information from the cross-cutting sectors. The pending works to be done are analysing the affected data by respective hazards, consolidation, consultation and finalization;

WAY FORWARD/ ROAD MAP

- Sub-Decree on the date of organizing the National Disaster Management Day jointly with the ASEAN Day for Disaster Management (ADDM) and the International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR) (tentatively on 13 October) has been drafted and submitted to Office of the Council of Ministers (Prime Minister Office);
- Sub-Decree on the organization and functioning of the Secretariat-General of NCDM *[Since NCDM was established earlier, so that its organizational structure might not perfectly matched with the regional (ASEAN) and global (HFA/SFDRR)]* has been drafted and submitted to Office of the Council of Ministers (Prime Minister Office);
- Sub-Decree on the organization and functioning of the sub-national committees for disaster management has been drafted and submitted to Office of the Council of Ministers (Prime Minister Office);
- The 1st Asian Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction after the advent of the Sendai Framework will be hosted by the Government of India. As a follow up from the 6th Asian Ministerial Conference outcome and as a requirement of the Sendai Framework implementation, the intended outcome of the AMCDRR 2016 in India will be to develop an «Asian Regional Plan for Implementation of the Sendai Framework». Thus, this first Asia Ministerial Conference in the post 2015 era will be momentous in nature which will set out the direction for disaster risk resilient development in the region for the coming decades;
- Sub-Decree on the mobilization procedure and reimbursement the people, private and public assets for the disaster relief and emergency response operations;

- Sub-Decree on the specific procedure of granting visa to personnel of the international response teams and the import of materials, equipment, facilities and humanitarian assistance.

PRIORITY TASKS

- Strengthening institutions and developing legal frameworks, regulations and improving mechanisms at all levels for disaster management based on actual situations of the country;
- Promoting and strengthening communication and cooperation in disaster management, particularly continuing to enhance the exchange of more in-depth information as well as establishing knowledge-sharing programs related to disaster prevention and reduction at communities, national, regional and international levels;
- Promoting partnership by ensuring an open and favourable environment for relevant stakeholders at all levels to engage in disaster management, including the vulnerable, especially through providing supports to the leadership and strengthening the implementation capacities at community level;
- Integration the Disaster Risk Reduction into development plans at all levels, by formulating and implementing community-cantered action plans for each region in cooperation with all stakeholders;
- Strengthening disaster preparedness and response plans with proper mechanisms to ensure the efficient implementation of the action plan as well as continuing to strengthen mechanisms to help victims during and after the disaster;
- Mainstreaming the action plans for disaster risk reduction, and developing and implementing social safety nets and social protection programs and reduction of vulnerability, especially women, children and ageing population for promoting risk reduction, resiliency, food security;
- Continuing to strengthen and expand insurance system as well as developing new insurance schemes to respond to disaster risks, especially life insurance and micro-insurance;
- Strengthening the national disaster risk management coordination mechanisms and National Platform for DRR in a systematic manner;
- Establishing the cooperation programmes to enhance the capacity of national and sub-national levels, especially communities on DRR by linking between climate change adaptation and sustainable development;
- Revising and improving the National Contingency Plan (NCP) for mid-term and long-term disaster emergency response.



