



PRESS RELEASE

Today 26 January 2021 at 8:30 am at the Conference Hall of the Sofitel Phnom Penh Pukitra, **Samdech Krolahorm Sar Kheng, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior, Chairman of the National Committee for General Population Census of Cambodia 2019** high representative of **Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia** released the final results of the third post war population census

According to the 2019 Cambodia Population Census the population in the country is 15,552,211 persons, 7,571,837 males (48.7%) and 7,980,374 females (51.3%). The annual rate of population increase is 1.4%. According to the previous census (2008) the population was 13.4 million, that is, from 2008 to 2019 the population has increased by 2.2 million.

The percentage of the population living in urban areas is 39.4% and in rural areas 60.6%. There are four provinces with more than 1 million inhabitants: Phnom Penh (2.3 million), Kandal (1.2 million), Prey Veng (1.1 Million) and Siam Reap (1.0 million). The number of households in the country is 3,553,021.

There have been important changes in the age structure of the population. Between the two censuses, the young population (0-14 years) declined from 33.0% to 29.4%, the middle age population (15-59 years) from 60.0% to 61.7%, and the elderly (60 years and plus) increased from 6.3% to 8.9%. The median age of the population increased from 22 to 27 years of age. These figures suggest that the Cambodian population is starting a process of ageing. It is important to clarify, that this does not mean that the population of Cambodia is old, but it is just starting getting old.

An important determinant of the population ageing is the decline of fertility and the fall of mortality. According to the 2008 Census, fertility was already low: total fertility rate (TFR) was 2.7 children per woman; the 2019 Census indicate a TFR of 2.5 children per woman. Regarding mortality, a substantial improvement can be observed. According to the 2008 census, infant mortality rate was 26 infant deaths (less than 1 year of age) per 1,000 births. The 2019 census estimate this rate as 18 infant deaths per 1,000 birth. Also relevant to mention is maternal mortality. Between the two censuses, it declined from 461 to 141 maternal deaths per 100,000 birth

It is important to remember that a census does not provide exact results. The main problem of a census is the undercount of the population or of the events. For this reason, most countries run a post enumeration survey just after the census. Cambodia conducted it and it indicates a 2.5% undercount. This is a low percentage and it does not invalidate any of the census results.

The 2019 population census are critical for the overall economic and social development of Cambodia, and will be useful for policy makers as well as leaders and planners.

The 2019 population census was conducted by National Institute of Statistics of the Ministry of Planning (MOP), under authority of the National Census Committee and guidance of the Census Technical Committee and financially supported almost entirely by the Royal Government of Cambodia. Some financial and technical support are from UNFPA, People's Republic of China especially for supplying equipment for the census. GIZ, EU and SIDA contributed also assistance for the networks and processing operation.

Taking this opportunity NIS has another announcement about Agriculture Statistics.

Cambodia is participating in the 50x2030 Initiative, which is a multi-partner effort launched in 2018 to promote Data-Smart Agriculture. The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) has recently started work on promoting the use of agricultural and rural data in Cambodia. At the upcoming release of data from the 2019 CIAS on February 9, IFAD will be announcing a grant competition for research projects using the 2019 CIAS data. IFAD will provide funding opportunities to local researchers in Cambodia to receive grants for research projects using 2019 CIAS data. With the upcoming release of 2019 CIAS data, IFAD work in Cambodia is very important and extremely relevant and timely for agricultural and rural development in Cambodia.

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