

Child Rights Situation in the Kingdom of Cambodia 2019 - 2023

by Child Rights Coalition Cambodia (CRC-Cambodia)

Child Rights Situation in Cambodia

Issue 1: Education

- 3rd UPR cycle: Cambodia received and accepted 20 recommendations related to education.
- A number of **national plans and guidelines** were adopted, but their implementation remains under-resourced: **education budget shares 3.1% of GDP.**
- The pandemic has caused additional challenges to the sector, worsening the learning outcomes for many children across the country, particularly the marginalized children.

Issue 1: Recommendations

- Increase the annual budget allocation for education to **gradually achieve 20% of national government expenditure** to improve the quality of education at all levels, especially in rural areas.
- Strengthen measures to guarantee access to inclusive education and increase school enrolment and completion rates for all children, and ensure that marginalized children and children whose schooling was disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic can benefit from interventions to address learning losses and complete their schooling.

Child Rights Situation in Cambodia – Issue 2

Climate Change & Child Participation

- 3rd UPR cycle: Cambodia received and accepted a recommendation from Fiji to address children's vulnerabilities, needs and **views** in climate change policies.
- UNICEF Children's Climate Risk Index: Cambodia is in the **top third of countries**
- Children are highly exposed to **water scarcity, riverine flooding, and vector-borne diseases. Weak provision of essential services** especially in rural areas increases children's vulnerability, especially indigenous children, children with disabilities and girls.

Issue 2: Recommendations

- Specifically **recognize in law children's right to a safe, healthy and sustainable environment** in line with the CRC Committee's *General Comment No. 26 on Children's Rights and the Environment with a Special Focus on Climate Change*. Take steps to address gaps, especially in the **procedural elements of this right**.
- As per the CRC's 2022 concluding observations (para. 18(b) and 39(a)), facilitate the **meaningful participation of children** in the development and implementation any forthcoming climate change policy.

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Issue 3: Equality & Non-Discrimination

- 3rd UPR Cycle: Cambodia received and accepted 15 recommendations addressing SOGIESC-based and/or gender-based discrimination and violence.
- A number of **national plans and guidelines** were adopted including in **education and child protection sectors**.
- 2022 Disrupting Harm study: 11% of children aged 12-17 experience **online sexual exploitation**.

Recommendations – Issue 3

- Build capacities of educational institutions to ensure they are fully **inclusive of all children, without discrimination of any kind**, including discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics (SOGIESC).
- Speed up the adoption and promulgation of the comprehensive **Child Protection Law**, including its chapter that covers OCSE offences.

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Issue 4: Child Marriage

- In the 3rd UPR cycle, Cambodia received and accepted a recommendation from Portugal to address child marriage.
- One project has been piloted on Preventing Child Marriage and Teenage Pregnancy in one province by the Royal Government of Cambodia.
- According to 2022 Cambodia's Demographic and Health Survey - **1 in every 5** young women was **married before the age of 18**.

Recommendations – Issue 4

- Develop a **national action plan to prevent child marriage and teenage pregnancy for 2024 – 2028** and allocate **appropriate resources** for its implementation and ensure **girls are involved** in the development and implementation of this plan (as per the CRC's 2022 concluding observations (para. 18(b)))
- Speed up the approval and promulgation of the **Child Protection Law**, incorporating civil society recommendations.

Thank you

from all members of our coalition & child and youth led networks:



Thank you



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#Putting Child Rights First!