Country Risk Profile

Institutional and Legal Framework for Disaster Risk Management

Disaster Risk Management in the Poverty Reduction Strategy and Country Development Plans

Assessment of Disaster Preparedness and Response Interventions

Priorities for Disaster Risk Reduction in Cambodia
Cambodia is one of the most disaster-prone countries in Southeast Asia.

Flood and Drought as critical factors that increase the socio-economic vulnerabilities of the rural poor, constraining Cambodian development and poverty alleviation.

About 80% of the Cambodia territory lies within the Mekong River, which is known to have large fluctuations of water level between the dry and wet seasons.
This has caused a cycle of droughts and floods almost every year, damaging agricultural production and livelihoods.

Cambodia has been affected by a series of exceptional floods and by widespread but highly located agricultural droughts.

**Flood and Drought risk management** is a key priority for poverty reduction and future development of the country.
II. Institutional and Legal Framework for DRM

DRM Coordination Mechanism in Cambodia

- National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM)
  - Cabinet of President
  - Provincial Committee for Disaster Management
    - District Committee for Disaster Management
      - Commune Committee for Disaster Management
    - PCDM Secretariat
  - General Secretariat
  - Disaster Management Working Group of Ministries and Institutes
    - DCDM Secretariat
    - CCDM Secretariat
National level:

The NCDM is composed of five departments:

1. Emergency response and Rehabilitation
2. Administration and Finance
3. Information and Relations
4. Preparedness and Training
5. Search and Rescue

Sub-national level:

The committees for disaster management branch into the provinces, districts and communes and retain similar governing structures and officers across all levels.
Role and responsibilities:

DMC at the sub-national level are intended as a coordination body and are responsible for providing overall guidance to all its members.

They are responsible for coordinating, facilitating, and guiding all line ministries and also play a coordination role with other development partners for overall disaster management activities in the provinces.
In Cambodia, the general policy for flood mitigation and protection is to accelerate flood mitigation programme in areas where flooding and water logging have serious effects on the social and economic development of the area.

2001: a number of degree, circulars, and orders for setting up national as well as sub-national institutional mechanisms
- Circular No.2 on reduced preparedness and response

2002: the key national decrees issued by the RCG are: Decree No.0202/040 on establishment of the NCDM; sub decree No.30 on the organization and functioning of the NCDM.
Administrative procedures and policies (cont.):

2006: sub-decree No.61 the established of the CCDM

2007: provincial *day ka* (Order) on the establishment of Disaster Management Commissions and establishment and functioning on the PCDM


Current: Disaster Management Law has been drafted and is under review by the Ministry of Interior
The National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP) for 2006 – 2010 synthesizes the goals and objectives of the rectangular Strategy, National Poverty Reduction Strategy (NPRS), and Cambodia Millennium Development Goals (CMDG).

It does not directly address disaster risk reduction (DRR) but incorporates it in the areas of social welfare, water resources management, agriculture, and rural development.

Within these priority sectors, the DRR activities that have been identified include: protecting rural areas from the natural hazards of flood and drought, enabling communities for disaster preparedness and risk reduction and reducing the vulnerability of the poor to external shocks, including natural hazards.
At the national level, some key ministries included disaster risk management in their core programs.

The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MoEYS), for instance, is implementing a mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into educational sector by including DRR practical measures and concepts into the national school curricula of grade 8 in two main subject matters, Geography and Earth Science.

The Ministry of Health (MoH) is implementing “safe hospital” campaigns and DRR integration into the health sector.
The Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology (MoWRAM) is playing an active role in providing flood and weather forecasting and early information warning.

Ministry of Agriculture, Forest and Fisheries (MAFF) supports the immediate recovery of the agricultural sector by providing rice seed and fuel.
Challenges identified by the government for effective disaster risk management are:

- Limited capacity of NCDM, the NCDM tends to convene primarily in response to natural disaster and while interested in risk reduction activities, still lacks both the technical skills and the budget.

- Human resources and technological capacity

- Lack of DRM legislation

- Institutional and legal framework mandates that the NCDM and its Secretariat have the primary responsibility for disaster management, the exact legal authority of the committee to exercise its responsibilities has to be clarified and the budget raised.
- At the sub-national level, the existing decrees sub-decrees establish province-, district- and commune-level committees for disaster management, but implementation of responsibility is limited by capacity and funding.

- NGOs or external support in target provinces have lead to the development of plans for disaster response based on the roles and responsibilities assigned at the national level, but there is still little capacity to implement them due to lack of resources, public awareness, and training.
## Illustrative Examples for Integrating Risk Reduction into Cambodia's Recovery Process

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<tr>
<th>Infrastructure Sector</th>
<th>Productive Sector</th>
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| - Introducing DRR assessment for the construction of new roads, bridges, and other major infrastructure.  
- Integration hazard awareness into land use planning.  
- Ensuring building codes integrate DRR and ensure compliance and enforcement of building codes.  
- Promote the increased use of hazard-resilient designs (e.g. flood proofing and seismic safety) in housing programs in hazard-prone areas. | - Promoting diversified income opportunities and supplementary income generation in high-risk areas.  
- Promote effective programs of crop diversification, including the use of hazardized-resistant crops.  
- Integration of emergency, food security, poverty alleviation, and rural development program. |

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<tr>
<th>Social Sector</th>
<th>Cross-Cutting</th>
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| - Promoting hazard-resilient construction for new schools and hospitals.  
- Incorporating DRR into the school curriculum.  
- Implementing disaster preparedness plans in schools and hospitals.  
- Public awareness campaigns that can change individual behavior and encourage reducing household risk. | - Strengthening capacities to protect ecosystems that can help reduce disaster risk.  
- Combating environmental degradation that enhances disaster risk (e.g. deforestation).  
- Reducing the vulnerability of female-headed households to disaster. |
Priority Medium- and Long-Term Needs

Planning to integrate disaster risk reduction (DRR) into the recovery process is essential but not sufficient by itself. Equal attention and resources need to be invested in the long-term policy commitment and disaster risk management (DRM) systems in order to affect real change.

- DRR implementation should be a national and local priority with a strong institutional commitment and adequate budging

- Strengthen the national and sub-national capacity to implement DRM intervention

- Identify, assess, and monitor hazard risks and enhance early warning systems
Priority Medium- and Long-Term Needs (cont.)

- Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience

- Mainstream DRR into policies and program of relevant government ministries

- Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels
THANK YOU