

# U. S. CDC Cambodia



Accessible link: [www.cdc.gov/global-health/countries/cambodia.html](http://www.cdc.gov/global-health/countries/cambodia.html)

CDC Cambodia, established in 2002, collaborates with Kingdom of Cambodia's Ministry of Health (MOH) to build and strengthen the country's core public health capabilities. These include data and surveillance; laboratory capacity; workforce and institutions; prevention and response; innovation and research; and policy, communications & diplomacy. Priority program areas address HIV, tuberculosis (TB), malaria, influenza, COVID-19, and other respiratory illnesses and infectious diseases.

## KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS



### Data & Surveillance

- Contributed to the World Health Organization Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System and global genomic surveillance of SARS-CoV-2



### Laboratory

- Facilitated the National Public Health Laboratory (Cambodia's National Institute of Public Health (NIPH) reference laboratory) in achieving international standard accreditation (ISO:15189 Plus™) in 2019 and recertification in 2023



### Workforce & Institutions

- Supported 235 public health staff who graduated from epidemiology training programs



### Prevention & Response

- Established an influenza molecular biology laboratory at the NIPH, which quickly supported identification and characterization of novel influenza viruses and case investigations of sporadic human infections with HPAI A(H5N1) bird flu virus
- Contributed to a 92% reduction in malaria cases from the most severe form of malaria—there have been no single malaria deaths since 2017



### Innovation & Research

- Use high-yield methods such as index and recency testing to find more people with undiagnosed HIV and connect them to treatment along with providing HIV self-testing at clinics to people who may be at risk but fear stigma and discrimination



### Policy, Communications & Diplomacy

- Implement best practices in HIV treatment ensuring all people living with HIV begin treatment with dolutegravir-based regimens on the same day of diagnosis

# PROGRAM OVERVIEW

## GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY

CDC works to strengthen the country's ability to prevent, detect, and rapidly respond to public health threats and emergencies across the following core areas:

### Surveillance Systems

CDC works with partners in Cambodia to improve public health surveillance systems, collecting and using health-related information to improve programs. CDC provides technical assistance to strengthen several infectious disease surveillance systems, including sentinel surveillance for antimicrobial resistance and severe acute respiratory infection (SARI) and influenza-like illness. CDC also supports the event-based Cambodian Early Warning Surveillance System, as well as surveillance for emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases, such as COVID-19 and mpox. CDC supported the MOH, the Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), and the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) to conduct a One Health Zoonotic Disease Prioritization Workshop in 2023. Participants reviewed evidence and agreed on five top priority zoonotic diseases: zoonotic avian influenza (bird flu), Nipah, COVID-19, Japanese encephalitis, and rabies.

### Laboratory Systems

CDC helps strengthen the quality of laboratory systems in Cambodia to accurately diagnose, monitor, and treat infections, including HIV, SARS-CoV-2, influenza, and other respiratory pathogens. CDC helped establish and provides support for a laboratory quality management system and an external quality assurance program. CDC is also supporting provincial HIV laboratories to achieve international accreditation.

### Workforce development

Cambodia's Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) was established in 2011. FETP trains public health staff at the national, provincial and district level in field-based epidemiology to detect, prevent, and control diseases to help prevent and rapidly mitigate infectious disease outbreaks. CDC Cambodia supports the frontline (basic 3-month course) and intermediate (9-month course) tiers of FETP. CDC provides technical assistance and mentorship for Cambodian staff attending advanced FETP training as part of regional programs in Thailand and Australia. CDC also strengthens laboratory leadership capacity through the Global Laboratory Leadership Program. CDC is working closely with the MOH, MAFF and MOE to strengthen One Health Rapid Response team capacity to better prepare for joint multi-sectoral responses to zoonotic outbreaks.

## HIV AND TB

Through the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), CDC is working with Cambodia to sustain epidemic control and end HIV as a public health threat by 2025. CDC focuses on helping the MOH:

- Find people with undiagnosed HIV and help them begin treatment
- Ensure treatment continuity and client-centered services for all, including children and adolescents

- Develop an HIV case surveillance system to monitor treatment and viral load suppression, and use real-time data from HIV recency testing to detect and respond to clusters
- Improve laboratory systems to monitor HIV viral loads
- Promote early adoption and ensure nationwide implementation of international HIV policies
- Ensure people living with HIV are screened for TB and receive TB preventive treatment

## MALARIA

Through the U.S. President's Malaria Initiative (PMI), CDC partners with USAID to support Cambodia's National Center for Parasitology, Entomology and Malaria. This partnership works to pilot and expand malaria elimination activities in Western Cambodia. PMI supports Cambodia's Malaria Elimination Action Framework to achieve a vision of a malaria-free Cambodia by 2025. PMI partners provide:

- Surveillance (antimalarial drug case-based)
- Vector identification
- Malaria case management
- Supply chain management
- Social and behavior change communication

## INFLUENZA

CDC works with the Cambodian government and other partners to conduct influenza sentinel surveillance and build laboratory and response capacity. The network monitors seasonal influenza and detects novel influenza viruses among persons with respiratory illness. The platform has been expanded to test for SARS-CoV-2 and RSV. Cambodia contributes to the World Health Organization Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System and global genomic surveillance of SARS-CoV-2. CDC supports surveillance for avian influenza A in live bird markets in multiple provinces. CDC works closely with partners to respond to sporadic human infections of pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) A(H5N1) (bird flu) virus. Partners include the MOH, MAFF, NIPH, Institut Pasteur du Cambodge, and the Wildlife Conservation Society of Cambodia.

