



POLICY BRIEF

ADVANCING CHILD RIGHTS

IN THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA

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POLICY BRIEF

ADVANCING CHILD RIGHTS IN THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA

This policy brief summarizes the findings and recommendations from the [Mid-Term Review Report](#) by the Child Rights Coalition Cambodia (CRC-Cambodia) on the implementation of the [recommendations](#) made by the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC Committee) to the Royal Government of Cambodia in 2022.

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Emphasizing the indivisibility and interdependence of all rights, the CRC Committee issued comprehensive recommendations to Cambodia highlighting **urgent measures** in the areas of **corporal punishment, sexual exploitation and abuse, children deprived of a family environment, education, economic exploitation/child labor, and the administration of child justice.**

Overall progress and promising efforts: Cambodia has made notable progress in health and welfare, specifically by reducing the under-five mortality rate from 35 to 16 deaths per 1,000 live births and stunting from 32% to 22%. This progress is supported by significant advancements in policy development, including the launch of the Family Package cash transfer program (which has reportedly reached 750,000 vulnerable children). Key strategic plans such as the National Action Plan on Prevention and Response to Violence Against Children (NVAC) 2025-2030 and the Alternative Care Action Plan (2023) and Policy (2024) have been updated. Furthermore, national educational policies and programs are becoming more inclusive and are systematically integrating climate change measures across all school levels. Climate change policies, like the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0), Cambodia Climate Change Strategic Plan (CCCSP), are also increasingly child sensitive. Finally, a commitment to consulting children and youth in policy development has been demonstrated.

Persisting gaps and critical challenges: Despite progress, critical gaps persist, stemming from insufficient resources, slow legal reform, and cultural norms. The Child Protection Law is not yet enacted, and loopholes in existing laws still permit corporal punishment and marriage at age 16 with parental consent. Online protection gaps mean grooming and non-consensual sharing of intimate images are not criminalized. Reporting and response mechanisms to violence against children remain underdeveloped. A shortage of qualified social workers and inadequate social protection funding are another major concern that undermines the de-institutionalization process and provision of adequate care for children in need. The lower secondary completion rate is only 60% (40% do not finish), with financial constraints being a primary barrier. Children with disabilities are three times less likely to attend school. The worst forms of child labor remain widespread, with insufficient inspections. Children in rural and remote areas are experiencing greater obstacles in accessing essential services. While the expansion of diversion programs is a promising development, the child justice system still heavily relies on detention (with a staggering 30% increase in the number of children detained as of April 2023).

2. CALL TO ACTION

The Royal Government of Cambodia is encouraged to **build on its existing momentum** by continuing the implementation of adopted policies and taking **decisive action to finalize and enact key legislative reforms**, most notably the **Child Protection Law**. By **adequately resourcing and coordinating** the implementation of national action plans, especially in **rural and remote areas**, the government can successfully address existing gaps and **effectively shield the most vulnerable children** from violence, discrimination, and neglect. This noble goal requires a **sustained commitment** to legal reform, institutional capacity building, and collaborative partnerships with civil society, local communities, and the children themselves.

3. KEY FINDINGS

3.1 CIVIL RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS

- The Committee urged Cambodia to improve universal access to birth registration and identity documents, specifically for ethnic minorities and migrant children. They also called for the removal of informal fees, the establishment of statelessness determination procedures, and consideration of joining relevant international statelessness treaties. Despite the new Law on Civil Registration, Vital Statistics and Identity (CRVS-ID Law, in force since 2024) and initial steps for its application, its full implementation is hampered by **insufficient human and financial resources at local level**. Informal practices such as charging unanticipated fees for birth certificates reportedly persist, particularly in rural and underserved areas. Children born to undocumented parents continue to face intergenerational statelessness. Implementation of the CRVS-ID risks further entrenching exclusion if the needs of minority and vulnerable children (inc. care leavers) are not addressed. In 2024, CRC-Cambodia held a consultation with nine ethnic minority children and young people from remote areas to explore concerns related to identity rights. The group highlighted that lacking legal documents, such as birth certificates, creates significant problems, leading to **bullying, social exclusion**, and the **denial of a legally recognized identity**. This lack of documentation severely undermines their rights, preventing them from accessing **essential services** like school, healthcare and social protection, while also causing issues with inheritance and obtaining a passport which increases risks of separation from parents.
- Cambodia was also urged by the Committee to guarantee freedom of expression for all children, as provided under the Constitution and the Convention; ensure children are supported to form their own associations and initiatives and more investment in the implementation of the National Guidelines for Child Participation (issued in 2014). Child and youth associations and participation face significant hurdles especially at the local level. Their engagement is often reliant on CSOs due to **limited human and financial resources** in local public authorities.

Deeper challenges stem from cultural and social norms that discourage younger people from challenging elders, leading to widespread self-censorship and disengagement. Despite promising practices (as mentioned below) child and youth participation remains ad hoc at the national level and an **institutionalized and permanent mechanism for meaningful participation is missing.**

3.2 VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

- The Committee recommended, as urgent measures, that corporal punishment be banned in all settings and that any laws that could be used to justify it be repealed. While a comprehensive Child Protection Law, expected to pass soon, will explicitly prohibit physical punishment, **loopholes remain in the Civil Code and the Domestic Violence Law** that still allow for a parental "right to discipline" or exclude "traditional discipline." Despite being illegal in schools, 43% of children under 14 are still subjected to violent discipline at home, showing that **social norms** are slow to change. However, promising efforts are underway, including a new National Action Plan on Prevention and Response to Violence against Children (NVAC) 2025-2030. Child and Youth-Led Networks (CYLNs) were consulted in its development, and ongoing collaboration with CYLNs is an important component of the policy's implementation. The Pagoda Program with Buddhist monks, aiming at shifting public attitudes toward positive, non-violent parenting presents another promising programme initiative.
- The Committee also recommended, as urgent measures, to strengthen legal protection against child sexual exploitation and abuse by criminalizing grooming and incest, ensuring clear legal definitions, and allocating resources to implement the National Action Plan to Prevent and Respond to Violence Against Children (NVAC). While Cambodia has developed various national action plans and guidelines to address Online Child Sexual Exploitation (OCSE), including a dedicated plan and the recent Child Online Protection Guidelines, serious **legal gaps persist** because **grooming** and the **non-consensual sharing of intimate images are not specifically criminalized.** This leaves internet-using children vulnerable – 11% reported experience with online sexual exploitation or abuse in the past years, with children aged 12-13 were disproportionately targeted for grooming and coercive threats. **The full legal reform relies heavily on passing the draft Child Protection Law,** as current efforts are **under-resourced, fragmented,** and lack **accessible reporting and support services** like psychosocial care for survivors, who are often deterred from reporting due to **stigma.** Child and youth representatives have urgently called for faster adoption of the Child Protection Law, clearer and accessible reporting channels, child-friendly investigation procedures, greater support for survivors, and simplified Khmer-language materials to help children understand and report OCSEA. Children also urged regulators and the private sector to **create stronger online safeguards,** such as tools for blocking access to harmful content, **tighter content regulation** by internet service providers, and awareness-raising through mobile platforms and educational games.

- Cambodia was urged by the Committee to eliminate child marriage, included forced marriage, by implementing action plans in Ratanakiri and other provinces, alongside public awareness campaigns. A 2024 national study based on 2023 data found that child marriage is driven by poverty and social norms, with the highest rate in Ratanakiri (37% of young women reported being married before the age of 18), compared to a national low of 7% in Takeo. In response, the Ministry of Women's Affairs initiated national consultations in 2025 for a new National Action Plan (2025-2030) to address child marriage and teenage pregnancy. However, legal gaps remain, as the Civil Code **still permits marriage at age 16 with parental consent**, and there is **no law explicitly banning forced marriage**, which disproportionately affects **Indigenous and rural communities**. Since the Committee review, local NGOs and youth groups are expanding community-based initiatives in various provinces to challenge **social norms** and support at-risk girls.
- The Committee recommended Cambodia harmonize existing helplines into a single, three-digit, toll-free, 24-hour service that is well-known and staffed to handle cases of violence and abuse. As of 2025, the government is discussing the creation of **a new, centralized child protection helpline system**. However, there is **no set rollout date**, and it's unclear how it will integrate with the primary existing hotline, **1280**, which is operated by local civil society organisation Child Helpline Cambodia. The priority is to ensure the new system **strengthens existing services** and avoids duplication. Separately, the '**GBV Safe App**' was launched in October 2024 to provide confidential support for women and girls facing violence. While a welcome innovation, particularly for adolescents, the app currently **lacks a child-friendly interface** or information tailored for younger children.

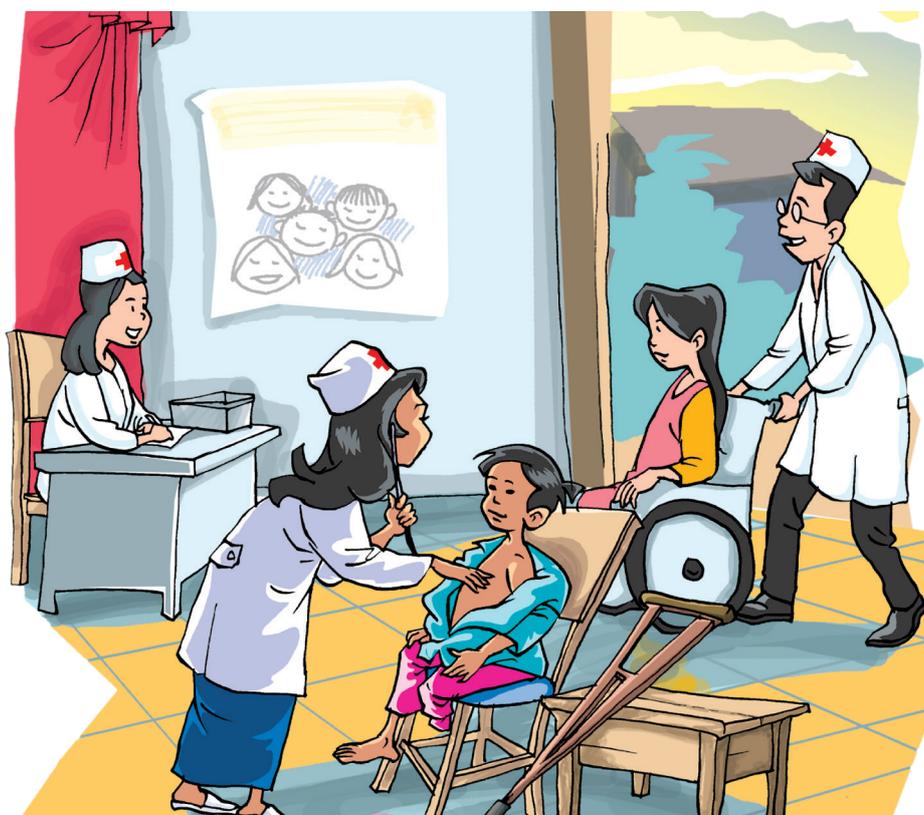


3.3 FAMILY ENVIRONMENT AND ALTERNATIVE CARE

- The Committee recommended, as urgent measures, prioritizing family-based care over residential care (which should only be temporary and strictly monitored), by developing foster care, boosting social support for vulnerable families, and establishing robust case management systems with trained social workers. Cambodia has made progress by updating its Alternative Care Action Plan (2023) and Policy (2024) to align with international standards, particularly with the UN Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children, emphasizing family preservation, gatekeeping, and children's reintegration. However, challenges persist: **10,000 children still live in roughly 300 residential care facilities (RCFs)**; there is a **lack of specific provisions for children with disabilities in the new plans**; **unregistered facilities are not inspected**; and the system is weakened by **inadequate social protection funding, a shortage of qualified social workers, and the oversight of specific needs**, such as those of children who remain behind by migrating parents. While **digital case management systems** are improving, they are **hindered by a lack of coordination and resources**.
- The Committee recommended investigating and prosecuting those responsible for past illegal international adoptions and formalising a domestic adoption system that prioritizes the best interests of the child. Cambodia has made progress by issuing a Guidebook on Domestic Adoption (2023), **but judges are not legally required to follow these guidelines**, creating a risk of adoptions occurring without government oversight. The formal domestic adoption system is hampered by **low public awareness and limited capacity among professionals**, resulting in extremely **low official adoption figures** (only 16 cases from 2020 to mid-2025). Furthermore, **children with disabilities** are disadvantaged, and **same-sex couples still lack adoption rights**. Despite concerns, **inter-country adoptions are resuming** with licensed foreign agencies but are intended only as a last resort.
- The Committee urged Cambodia to improve prison conditions for children living with their mothers in line with the international standards. However, the number of such children is rising, **with 92 children living in harsh conditions that lack proper hygiene, nutrition, and safe spaces**. The problems are worsened by extreme prison **overcrowding** (more than half over 200% with some exceeding 650% capacity) and the **underuse of alternatives to detention**, even for vulnerable groups like pregnant women, who have reportedly given birth in shackles. Although the government announced a subsistence allowance for pregnant women and mothers in late 2024, a local human rights organization reported **no evidence of this assistance being delivered by mid-2025**.

3.4 CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

- The Committee recommended strengthening protections for children with disabilities by aligning new laws with the CRC and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), establishing anti-discrimination enforcement, developing early detection and support services nationwide, and creating a comprehensive database. Cambodia has made progress by drafting a new **Disability Rights Bill** and a **National Disability Strategic Plan 2024–2028**, but an **independent oversight body** for discrimination complaints is still missing. While new programs are improving early identification and support in some areas, **rural regions lack specialist services and mental health needs are overlooked**. The **National Action Plan on Early Childhood Care and Development 2022-2026** promotes holistic development and tasks a National Committee of 11 ministries with identifying young children with disabilities, though the plan's implementation is **gradual** across the country. Similarly, despite launching a new **Inclusive Education Action Plan 2024–2028**, children with disabilities are **three times less likely to attend school** due to **stigma, inaccessible facilities, and untrained teachers**, creating a vast **implementation gap**. Finally, while the Disability Management Information System (DMIS) has registered over 288,000 persons, it has only included around 25,646 children, suggesting **significant under-identification**, and crucial **data is not yet integrated** with education planning systems.



3.5 HEALTH AND WELFARE

- The Committee urged Cambodia to address regional disparities in child mortality and improve access to quality healthcare for vulnerable groups, specifically focusing on reducing infant mortality and malnutrition. Since 2022, Cambodia has made notable progress in respect of mortality rates and reducing malnutrition. The under-five mortality rate dropped significantly from 35 to 16 deaths per 1,000 live births, and the infant mortality rate fell from 28 to 12 deaths per 1,000 live births. Moreover, stunting among children under five declined from 32% to 22%, and underweight prevalence dropped from 24% to 16%. However, **malnutrition rates remain higher in rural areas** (e.g., 25% stunting compared to 17% in urban areas). In addition, significant challenges remain especially in respect of low health care coverage. Two main schemes include: Health Equity Fund (HEF) (non-contributory) and the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) (contributory) remain low, covering only about **40% of the population** (- compared to nearly 95% in neighbouring Lao PDR and Viet Nam). **The newly established Family Package cash transfer program** was introduced to improve health, nutrition, and education outcomes, reportedly reaching about 750,000 children from vulnerable families by mid-2025. There are growing concerns over environmental health hazards, particularly **lead exposure**, with **more than half of children under 18** having elevated blood lead levels. Additionally, an estimated **18% of under-five** mortality is attributed to air pollution.
- The Committee urged tackling the silent crisis of child mental health by creating a dedicated national program, including community-based services, school prevention, and a comprehensive national study to fill the vast data gaps. Since 2022, Cambodia has begun to build a policy foundation, launching the Mental Health Strategic Plan (2022–2030) and committing to the WHO Special Initiative for Mental Health in 2025. Practical steps include developing Online Crisis Counselling Guidelines and a Psychological First Aid training curriculum for schools to help teachers support students with stress or trauma. Efforts are also underway to create a national Multi-Sectoral Action Plan for Suicide Prevention. Despite these plans, a major implementation gap remains. There is no comprehensive national study on child mental health, yet evidence points to a crisis: **58% of secondary students reported mental health issues like stress and loneliness after school closures**. The system is severely hampered by a **lack of funding and a critical shortage of trained specialists, especially in child and adolescent mental health**. **Services are limited and inaccessible**, particularly for vulnerable groups like children with disabilities or those transitioning out of institutional care, who often receive inadequate follow-up counselling. Consultations with children highlighted that their mental health is severely affected by a range of social pressures, including social media, family debt, discrimination, and the stress of parental migration. Children also expressed "climate anxiety," worrying about deforestation, mining, and water scarcity, and **urgently called for action to protect natural resources for the future**:

"I worry that future generations of children will no longer benefit from nature. I don't want to see deforestation, or a lack of rain. There is already no water in my home now." Boy, younger than 18.

"I also worry about resources in the future, because of mining [in my area]. Children will not know what types of minerals we had – we are losing our mountains and rocks, they are being destroyed to make cement." Girl, younger than 18.

- The Committee urged Cambodia to include children's needs and voices in climate change and disaster planning and to integrate environmental education into the school curriculum. Children's rights, including their right to health and education, are severely affected by climate change, with their vulnerability amplified by **inadequate essential services**. The Cambodia's Children's Climate Risk Index (CCRI) revealed **that 21% of all children (1.2 million) face high to very high climate risk, especially in remote, rural areas**. In response, Cambodia has updated its policies, such as the Circular Strategy on Environment and the National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction 2024-2028, Cambodia Climate Change Strategic Plan 2024-2033 as well as Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0), which are increasingly child-sensitive and prioritize child protection and other essential services as core to climate resilience.
- An environmental and climate change curriculum has been developed for primary and secondary schools, and the Education Strategic Plan (2024-2028) presents a good example of a sectoral strategy that systematically incorporates climate measures across all schooling levels. However, **the quality of environmental curriculum delivery is uneven, and children across the country still report lacking sufficient knowledge about climate change causes and solutions**. A significant challenge remains the **lack of resources** for implementing disaster risk reduction (DRR) programs locally. While some **ad-hoc consultations with children occurred** during policy development (like the NDC 3.0), Cambodia needs to formalize a permanent mechanism to systematically include children in the monitoring, evaluation, and implementation of climate and DRR policies. During multiple rounds of consultations, children reported lacking knowledge about the root causes of climate change and its short and long consequences, as well as national and local policies and plans to deal with the impacts of climate change.

"I don't feel I am prepared enough for the extreme weather changes, as I lack knowledge about this issue" (16 year old girl respondent in a recent INGO report).

3.6 EDUCATION

- The Committee recommended, as urgent measures, to make primary education compulsory, provide at least nine years of free education, and expand inclusive education for girls, minorities, and children with disabilities while improving quality. While Cambodia has developed comprehensive education policies like the Education Strategic Plan 2024-2028, Strategic Plan for Teachers Education Reform 2024 – 2023 and seen a steady improvement in enrolment across all levels, significant gaps remain. The lower secondary completion rate is nearly 60%, meaning **40% of children still don't finish this basic level**. Learning outcomes are alarmingly low: according to the 2022 OECD's Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) **results showed only about 10% of 15-year-olds met minimum proficiency in key subjects. Every second child with disabilities remains out of school** due to poverty, stigma, and a lack of trained teachers and supportive infrastructure. **Financial constraints** remain the primary barrier to **secondary school** enrolment and retention as cited by 59% of upper secondary-aged children and 38% of lower secondary school-aged children. Although education is officially free, families face significant **informal fees for materials and essential "extra classes," which can lead to discrimination and dropouts**. Teacher shortages are severe in rural areas, while classrooms in other areas, including peri-urban Phnom Penh, are often severely overcrowded (up to 70 students per class in one case), straining teaching quality. School safety is a major concern, as 26% of girls and 28% of boys report experiencing monthly bullying. Crucially, children with diverse sexual orientation, gender identity and expression as well as sexual characteristics (SOGIESC) face frequent discrimination and demotivating remarks from teachers, which harm their mental health and contribute to dropouts as child and youth participants reported in consultations:

"When teachers call out our mistakes in front of the class, our friends, it can be very discouraging for children, making us feel embarrassed, sometimes even to the point of not wanting to go back to school" (boy, younger than 18)

"[Teachers comments can be] demeaning and degrading... Teachers say, 'boys who behave like girls do not need education.'" (prefer not to share, younger than 18)

- While WASH facilities and electricity access have improved, **inadequate or unsafe toilets** pose a challenge, especially for girls during menstruation, and climate-related hazards like **heat waves and flooding disrupt the learning process**.

3.7 SPECIAL PROTECTION MEASURES

- The Committee expressed deep concern about the large number of children in labor across Cambodia, including those in hazardous work, domestic servitude, and debt bondage (in sectors like brickmaking, construction, and agriculture) recommending, as urgent measures, to combat child labour by strengthening legislation, increasing labour inspections, imposing fines and criminal sanctions on offenders, providing mandatory training for justice officials, and facilitating recovery and education for former child workers. Since 2022, the government has intensified awareness campaigns on child labour laws and extended the action plan for the fisheries sector. However, the worst forms of child labour remain widespread, with children as young as nine documented in dangerous jobs like brick kilns. **Labour inspections are concerningly insufficient**, identifying only one child labour violation in 219 inspections in 2023, with reports of bribery and reluctance to prosecute powerful business owners. Progress is further stalled by the fact that the **Child Protection Law** is not yet enacted alongside a reported lack of governmental focus on investigating these cases.
- The Committee urged Cambodia to combat child trafficking, both for forced labor and sexual exploitation, more effectively including by assessing past strategies, ensuring all victims are referred to child-friendly services, and prosecuting perpetrators. Cambodia remains a major **source and destination country** for trafficking, and while some children were rescued in 2023, these efforts are insufficient. A **growing, serious concern** is the trafficking of children, some as young as 14, into **online scam compounds** where they face **forced labor, confinement, and torture**. Despite these documented abuses, the Cambodian government has reportedly failed to take **adequate action** to prevent them or prosecute those responsible, leading the **U.S. to downgrade Cambodia to the lowest ranking (Tier 3)** in its annual Trafficking in Persons Reports for three consecutive years.



- The Committee also recommended, as urgent measures, aligning its child justice system with international standards by implementing the Juvenile Justice Law, increasing the use of non-custodial measures, and establishing specialized courts. Despite positive steps like the expansion of diversion programs (which have successfully steered at least 55 children away from prosecution) and the adoption of new guidelines, **the child justice system remains heavily reliant on detention**, including for minor, non-violent offenses. As of April 2023, 1,658 children were detained, representing a staggering 30% increase from the previous year. Over half of these children were in pre-trial detention, which is often **used as a default measure, not a last resort**. Children in detention face harsh conditions exacerbated by **extreme overcrowding** (as already mentioned). Many children report being denied their right to a **lawyer** or the chance to apply for **bail**. Beyond detention, children reported facing systemic barriers to justice, including **fear, stigma**, and a lack of **child-friendly procedures**, which is especially acute for girls and children from marginalized communities. While NGO-led diversion programs have demonstrated success with **extremely low recidivism rates (2%)**, these alternatives reach only a fraction of the children in conflict with the law.



4. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR POLICY AND ACTION

4.1 STRENGTHENING LEGAL FRAMEWORKS

- Ensure the Civil Registration Vital Statistics and Identity (CRVS-ID) law is implemented without discrimination, providing clear guidance for local officials and removing unofficial fees for birth certificates.
- Enact the Child Protection Law without further delay and revise or repeal all conflicting provisions within existing legislation to establish a comprehensive and unambiguous legal framework aligned with the CRC. Including, but not limited to:
 - Repeal all conflicting provisions in the Civil Code and the Domestic Violence Law that permit a "right to discipline" or exclude "traditional discipline," ensuring a clear, universal ban on corporal punishment in all settings.
 - Amend the Penal Code or other relevant legislation to specifically criminalize "grooming" and the non-consensual sharing of intimate images to close existing gaps in online protection.
 - Amend the Civil Code to establish 18 as the minimum legal age for marriage without any exceptions and enact a dedicated law explicitly prohibiting forced marriage.
- Enacting legislation that makes the principles within the 2023 Domestic Adoption Guidebook legally binding for all judges to eliminate adoptions without government oversight.
- Expedite the drafting and passage of the Disability Rights Bill and simultaneously establish an independent oversight body with the legal authority to enforce anti-discrimination complaints.

4.2 IMPROVE SERVICES AND SUPPORT SYSTEMS

- Invest in community-based social support for families to advance de-institutionalization and prioritize family-based care, including for children with disabilities. Invest in qualified social workers and strengthen social protection coverage to support vulnerable families, including foster and kinship caregivers. Continuing improving procedures and building capacities of professionals involved in adoptions to ensure decisions in the best interest of the child.
- Implement a dedicated, accessible, and single child protection helpline, making sure that children are informed and staff are adequately trained to respond effectively to children's disclosures. Make digital support tools, including the existing GBV mobile application, child-friendly and directly connect at-risk children to a full range of multi-sectoral services.
- Expand and institutionalize positive discipline initiatives through culturally embedded community programmes, and targeted awareness-raising for parents and caregivers, with specific attention to rural and marginalised populations.
Implement mandatory, specialized training for the entire justice chain (law enforcement, prosecutors, and judges) to ensure that all reports of abuse, including online child sexual exploitation, lead to prompt and sensitive investigations, resulting in perpetrator accountability and robust measures to protect survivors from re-traumatization (secondary victimization).
- Urgently improve conditions for children living with their mothers in prison, ensuring access to minimum standards of care, including nutrition, healthcare, hygiene, and safe spaces.
- Prioritize and invest in measures to improve access to quality health services, especially for vulnerable groups like those in rural areas, children with disabilities, minority/migrant children, and near-poor families, through the expansion of the Health Equity Fund (HEF) and the Family Package. Consider removing means-testing requirements for persons with moderate and severe disabilities, allowing them non-contributory inclusion in the Health Equity Fund regardless of income, due to the significant extra costs faced by their families.

- Continue reducing infant and under-5 mortality by improving maternal/newborn care and tackling the main causes of neonatal death, while simultaneously implementing and monitoring comprehensive service delivery and community programs to combat all forms of child malnutrition (underweight, stunting, and anaemia).
- Develop accessible, inclusive school- and community-based psychological counselling services, prioritizing children in vulnerable situations (including those with disabilities or diverse SOGIESC) while simultaneously conducting campaigns to promote mental health literacy and reduce related stigma.
- Increase the national education budget to 20% of total expenditure to guarantee at least nine years of free and compulsory education for all, by eliminating financial barriers like informal fees. Use this investment to fully fund and implement the Inclusive Education Action Plan 2024–2028 and the Multilingual Education Action Plan 2024–2028.
- Increase annual investment in climate-resilient schools. Standardize & align the environmental and climate change curriculum with international standards (CRC GC26) and ensure teachers receive systematic training and support to deliver it effectively.



4.3 ENHANCE CAPACITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- Increase domestic resourcing and institutional leadership for the implementation of the 2025-2030 NVAC, and ensure that CSEA prevention campaigns, and adequately resourced, inclusive, and child and youth centred reporting channels and support services. Guarantee accessible access to justice and effective remedies by developing a safe, child-centered reporting and response mechanism (aligned with the forthcoming CRC General Comment 27), and consider ratifying the CRC Optional Protocol on a Communications Procedure (OP3).
- Strengthen usage and coverage of PRIMERO and OSCAR case management systems and tracking tools to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all children at risk, including children remaining behind, reintegrated children, especially those with disabilities and those in remote communities.
- Maximize the use of the Children's Climate Risk Index (CCRI) and its dashboard for multi-sectoral engagement and coordination. Continue disaggregated data collection on climate change impacts across all vulnerability factors (age, sex, disability, etc.), and ensure this data is shared and used for evidence-based policy formulation and monitoring.
- Mandate the creation of a national, rights-based, interoperable child data system that requires systematic collection and disaggregation of all sectoral data (birth registration, health, education, protection, justice, and labor) by key vulnerability factors (ethnic origin, disability, migrant status, etc.), while simultaneously establishing full data integration between the Disability Management Information System (DMIS) and key planning systems (EMIS), and integrating mental health indicators into national surveys (CDHS), all to ensure evidence-based planning and accountability for the most vulnerable children.
- Establish a Multi-Sectoral and Multi-Level Coordination Mechanism to oversee policy coherence, planning, and resource mobilization. Recognize children as rights-holders and change agents by embedding their meaningful participation in policy development and implementation including in respect of mental health, climate change and other key areas as recommended by the Committee.
- Promote and increase annual investment in application of the 2014 National Guidelines for Child Participation, provide training and tools to local authorities and institutionalize meaningful child participation in decision making at all levels.

For further details, refer to [the Mid-Term Review Report on the Child Rights Situation in the Kingdom of Cambodia - Assessing Progress on the UNCRC Concluding Observations \(2022\)022](#), developed by the Child Rights Coalition Cambodia (CRC-Cambodia).

Child Rights Coalition Cambodia (CRC-Cambodia), formerly known as the NGO Coalition on the Rights of the Child (NGOCRC), was established in 1994. It is an alliance of 61 national and international non-governmental organizations (data as of 2025). CRC-Cambodia advocates for child rights in Cambodia and ensures support for the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) through awareness-raising, monitoring its implementation, cooperating with member organizations, and networking with relevant agencies. Its establishment is in line with Article 45 of the CRC and other related articles, affirming the crucial role of civil society in monitoring implementation of children's rights. CRC-Cambodia has played an important role in this regard, utilizing the UN human rights mechanisms and bodies, especially the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, the Universal Periodic Review, and Special Rapporteurs, to monitor and report on the situation of children's rights in Cambodia.



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