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Current 2008 Population Census of Cambodia

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Abstract

The population and housing census of any country is the main source of information about the size and geographic distribution of its population and housing as well as the demographic, social, cultural and economic characteristics of the people. The chief merit of a census is that it covers the population of the entire country and provides continuity and comparability of population data over time. In accordance with U.N recommendations and the stipulation in the Statistical Law of Cambodia, the Royal Government of Cambodia had decided to conduct a general population census every ten years beginning with the 1998 census.

The 2008 census was conducted on a *de facto* basis with reference to 3 March, 2008 exactly ten years after the last census was held. The 1998 General Population Census of Cambodia carried out for the first time in 36 years provided a comprehensive population data base which proved very useful to the Royal Government in implementing development programmes in the country.

The census was conducted under the overall guidance in policy matters by the National Committee for the 2008 census under the chairmanship of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior. It was assisted in all technical issues by the Technical Committee for the 2008 census under the chairmanship of the Senior Minister, Minister of Planning.

The National Institute of Statistics, Ministry of Planning was responsible for overall census planning and implementation. The census was carried out under the supervision of the Director General, NIS in the Ministry of Planning assisted by Deputy Director Generals. The census office within the NIS coordinated the census work in the country. Unlike in the 1998 Census when there were UN experts serving as long term resident technical advisers for census and data processing, external technical assistance was kept at the minimum for the 2008 Census. UNFPA provided the services of short term consultants for census and data processing. NIS also had the benefit of advice from JICA consultants on mapping, editing, coding, tabulation, etc.