

CAMBODIA

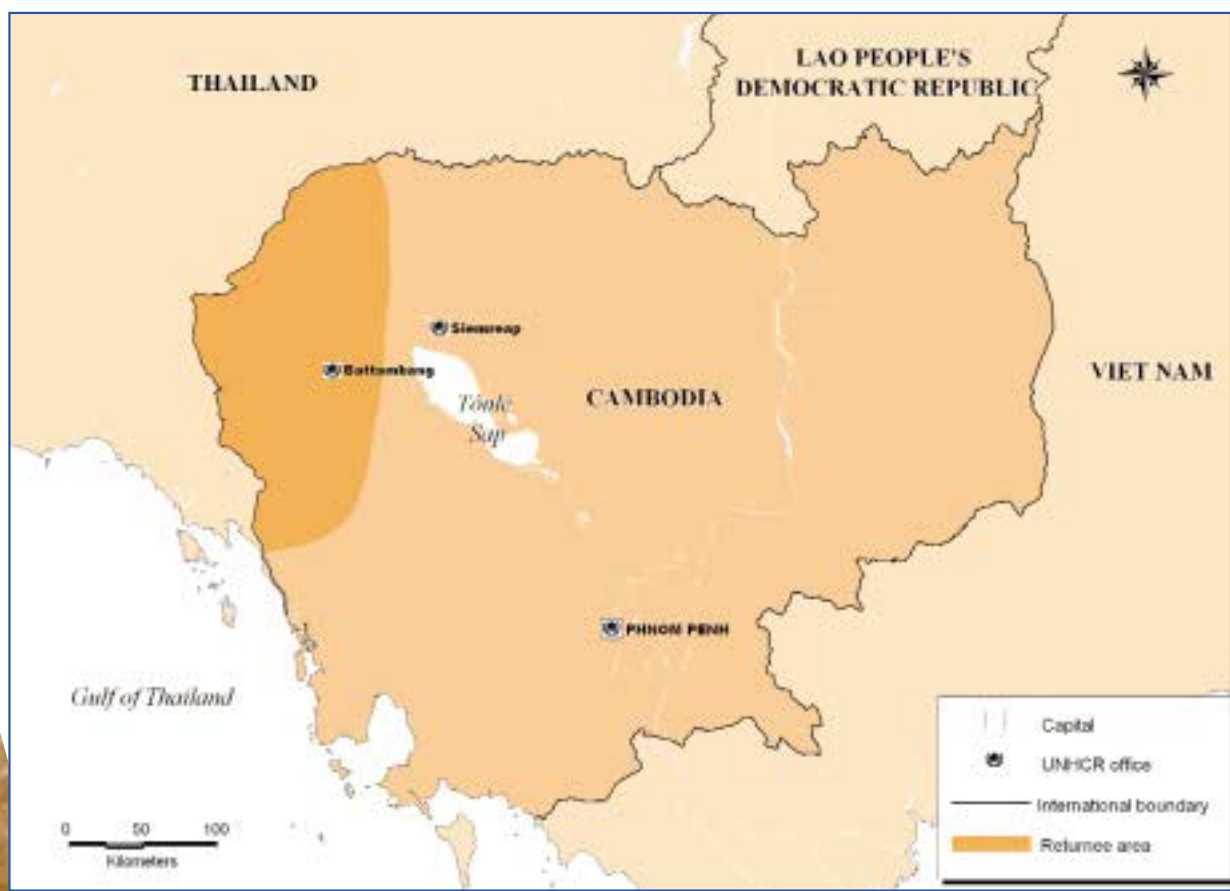
CAMBODIA

IN SHORT

Main Objectives

- Monitor the protection and reintegration of returnees within their communities.
- Assist returnees to reach a level of security, social integration and economic self-reliance comparable to that of communities to which they return.
- Establish linkages with assistance programmes run by longer-term development agencies to ensure seamless support during the phase-out of UNHCR's programme.
- Help national institutions strengthen their capacity to implement Cambodia's refugee legislation in accordance with its Convention obligations.

Planning Figures		
Population	Jan. 2000	Dec. 2000
Cambodian Returnees	47,000	50,000
Urban Refugees/ Asylum-Seekers	130	170
Total	47,130	50,170
Total Requirements USD 3,739,571		





WORKING ENVIRONMENT

Recent Developments

After the formation of a coalition government and the peace settlement between the Government and resistance forces towards the end of 1998, the voluntary repatriation of some 37,000 Cambodian refugees from Thailand gained rapid momentum and was completed by April 1999. All Thai border camps were subsequently closed. In total, UNHCR has facilitated, directly or indirectly, the return of approximately 47,000 Cambodians from Thailand since October 1997. In Cambodia, UNHCR has monitored the well-being of returnees and promoted their reintegration through Quick Impact Projects (QIPs). These benefit both returnees and the wider community in terms of water, health, crop production, community services and education.

Constraints

The presence of landmines and the damage to infrastructure in most of the returnee areas in north-west and western Cambodia have hampered UNHCR's monitoring and reintegration activities. To remedy this, demining agencies were contracted to demarcate and demine priority areas as well as to conduct mine awareness campaigns.

The rainy season renders several important returnee areas totally inaccessible for more than half the year.

The absence of effective land tenure legislation represents a potential threat to the permanence of returnee resettlement.

To protect individual asylum-seekers and refugees, UNHCR will support the development of a legal and administrative framework. Such a framework will improve conditions for asylum-seekers in Cambodia. The Government is currently examining a sub-decree to the Immigration Law concerning asylum-seekers and refugees.

Assistance

UNHCR will implement community-based QIPs to repair infrastructural damage in returnee areas and create income-generating opportunities leading to self-reliance. These projects will include the construction or rehabilitation of schools, health posts, community wells, latrines and bridges. Seeds and tools will also be distributed to rural families and vocational training will be organised to encourage the setting up of small businesses. These activities will be implemented through government agencies such as the Provincial Rural Development Committees, as well as local and international NGOs. Special community services activities will continue to target vulnerable individuals such as female heads of households, unaccompanied elderly people, unaccompanied children, the chronically ill and the disabled.

UNHCR will contribute to the safety of returnee areas by clearing anti-personnel mines and unexploded ordnance in priority locations to ensure viable settlement and safe access for humanitarian workers. Demining agencies will be contracted for this purpose.

Pending the adoption of the amendment to the immigration law, UNHCR will continue to carry out refugee status determination of asylum-seekers and provide limited financial assistance to needy refugees. In the course of the year, UNHCR will also strengthen the capacity of local institutions through seminars on refugee law and training initiatives.

Desired Impact

Through close monitoring and timely intervention, UNHCR will endeavour to ensure the smooth reintegration of returnees into their communities. The establishment of a clear, smooth path from immediate rehabilitation and income-generation to longer-term development will stabilise returnee communities and hasten the complete reintegration of returnees.

Individual refugees and asylum-seekers will receive adequate legal and material assistance from

STRATEGY

Protection and Solutions

Through daily monitoring, UNHCR seeks to ensure that Cambodian returnees' human rights are respected, and that they are not subject to ill-treatment as a consequence of their flight. To ensure that the rights and needs of women are properly taken into consideration, at least half of the returnees interviewed are women. Sustainable reintegration within areas of return is the ultimate solution sought for this group. Special efforts are made by UNHCR, in association with other UN and human rights agencies, to advocate the securing of land rights for returnees by competent authorities and to intercede, as required, in the distribution of land plots to rural families.





UNHCR until national structures are put in place for the protection of refugees in Cambodia.

ORGANISATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

Management Structure

UNHCR's Liaison Office in Cambodia is under the overall supervision of UNHCR Regional Office in Bangkok, Thailand. Two field offices, in Battambang and Siem Reap, report to the Liaison Office in Phnom Penh. UNHCR has 23 staff in Cambodia, including six international staff, one Junior Professional Officer, and 16 national staff. UNHCR intends to gradually phase down its presence in Cambodia during the second half of 2000 as the reintegration assistance programme reaches its planned conclusion. Beyond December 2000, a limited protection presence will be maintained for continued monitoring.

Coordination

UNHCR closely coordinates with Government bodies, UN Agencies and NGOs in the assessment of returnee needs and the elaboration of reintegration projects. In particular, links have been established with WFP to ensure food security for returnees as well as with the UNDP/UNOPS Cambodia Area Rehabilitation and Regeneration Project (CARERE) for longer-term development assistance. With regard to protection monitoring, UNHCR and OHCHR are jointly working on the promotion of land rights for returnees.

Offices

Phnom Penh	Battambang	Siem Reap
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Partners

Government Agencies

Provincial Rural Development Committees

NGOs

Action Against Hunger
 Association to Aid Refugees
 Cambodia Family Development Services
 Cambodia Mines Action Center
 Cambodian Red Cross
 Emergency Life Support for Civilian War Victims
Enfants Réfugiés du Monde, Halo Trust
 International Federation of the Red Cross
 Jesuit Refugee Services
 Mines Advisory Group
 Refugee Care Netherlands
Teuk Saat (Clear Water)
 Village Water Supply Programme

* Partners for reintegration QIPs will be identified and contracted in 2000.

Budget (USD)

Activities and Services	Annual Programme
Protection, Monitoring and Coordination	300,824
Community Services	225,000
Crop Production	230,000
Domestic Needs/ Household Support	60,000
Education	223,000
Health/Nutrition	250,000
Income Generation	110,000
Legal Assistance	56,000
Livestock	50,000
Operational Support (to Agencies)	537,500
Sanitation	50,000
Shelter/Other Infrastructure	800,000
Transport/Logistics	2,500
Water (non-agricultural)	250,000
Total Operations	3,144,824
Programme Support	594,747
Total	3,739,571

