



Date: 08 August 2025

unicef 
for every child

Country Office Humanitarian Situation Report No. 2

Highlights

- A ceasefire agreement reached on 28 July has paused hostilities along the Thailand–Cambodia border, offering a critical window for humanitarian access and response scale-up. However, the situation remains fragile, with ongoing displacement and service disruptions.
- Displaced families—primarily women, children, and the elderly—are sheltering in overcrowded schools, pagodas, and makeshift structures serving as safe areas facing heightened risks due to poor shelter conditions, limited sanitation, and lack of essential services.
- Key gaps include limited access to clean water, inadequate sanitation, insufficient temporary learning spaces, overstretched health services, poor nutrition, and heightened protection risks for vulnerable groups.
- UNICEF is supporting the Government of Cambodia through national and sub-national partners. Emergency WASH supplies have reached over 11,000 people, and education kits have been deployed to support learning continuity. UNICEF is also planning on delivering mental health and psychosocial support, child protection services, and nutrition interventions, including treatment of severe acute malnutrition and targeted immunization.

Situation in Numbers



153,910
Individuals remain internally displaced (IDPs), primarily women, children, and the elderly



755,729
Returnees from Thailand including 328,808 women and 10,793 children



281
Schools remain closed affecting 86,195 students and 2,773 teachers



21 Health care facilities remain closed



382 children (171 girls) in 14 RCIs (Residential Care Institutions) affected

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

The crisis has significantly affected communities in Preah Vihear, Oddar Meanchey, Banteay Meanchey, Siem Reap, and Pursat provinces, and approximately 153,910 individuals are currently displaced, primarily women, children, and the elderly. While a ceasefire agreement reached on 28 July has halted active hostilities, the situation remains fragile, with many families still residing in 134 government-supported displacement sites or hosted by relatives. Concerns over unexploded ordnance, damaged housing, and limited access to services continue to deter large-scale returns. In parallel, 755,729 Cambodian nationals have returned from Thailand, including 328,808 women and 10,793 children, placing additional pressure on overstretched services. The crisis has also disrupted care for 382 children (171 girls) in 14 residential care institutions. 21 health care facilities and 281 schools remain closed. Displaced and returning populations continue to face urgent needs across health, nutrition, education, child protection, and water, sanitation and hygiene. UNICEF and partners are delivering life-saving assistance and supporting coordinated, inclusive, and responsive interventions.

Funding Overview and Partnerships

UNICEF has received generous support for its regular country development programme from development partners and private sector donors, including through UNICEF National Committees. However, **urgent funding gaps remain for the immediate humanitarian response. US\$ 2.3 million is needed to meet critical needs in health, nutrition, water and sanitation, education, child protection, social protection, and other emergency efforts until the end of December 2025.** An additional US\$ 7.67 million is required to sustain UNICEF's ongoing broader development activities as part of the country programme of cooperation with the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC), which supports long-term investments in social protection, disability inclusion, adolescent development, and systems strengthening. Without timely and flexible funding, over 1.5 million children across Cambodia risk exclusion from essential services such as clean water, immunization, nutrition, psychosocial support, early learning, and social assistance. UNICEF continues to advocate for increased support to scale up its emergency response, safeguard development gains, and ensure that the most vulnerable children are protected and supported—both during the current crisis and in its aftermath.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Health

UNICEF is working with the Ministry of Health to address severe disruptions in health services, with urgent needs in maternal, newborn, and mental health care. Overcrowded safe areas in Preah Vihear and Siem Reap are hosting displaced women, infants, and adolescents with limited access to care. Affected health facilities remain closed, and displaced populations have not returned home. The Ministry of Health has requested UNICEF's support for a rapid health and nutrition assessment

and provision of mental health and psychosocial services. A delivery framework has been developed with the Mental Health Department and is under review with the World Health Organization. Coordination challenges, lack of supplies, and supply chain disruptions hinder service delivery. UNICEF has urged provincial authorities to improve coordination with safe centre management. Disaggregated data are still being compiled. Immediate action is needed to restore essential health services.

Nutrition

UNICEF is supporting the Ministry of Health to address acute malnutrition among displaced children, particularly those under five. Girls and boys are at risk of malnutrition because of lack of consistent access to healthy, energy-dense food. Nutrition services are available in 230 health centres and 5 referral hospitals across four provinces, with Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food available in all health facilities. Immediate response requires expanding screening across 196 centres, fortified biscuits to supplement children under 5 and pregnant women in displaced populations, strengthening referral pathways, and building health staff capacity to protect exclusive breastfeeding. Gaps include limited outreach capacity, weak referral systems, inconsistent feeding practices, and limited data. UNICEF stands ready to scale up support and is coordinating with national and sub-national partners.

Child Protection

UNICEF conducted a rapid assessment in Siem Reap, identifying urgent child protection needs, particularly related to psychosocial wellbeing and mental health. Children in three internally displaced person sites expressed emotional distress, and protection risks—including exposure to violence. Girls and boys face increased vulnerabilities due to overcrowding, lack of safe spaces, and limited access to support services. UNICEF, government, and development partners agreed to conduct a joint child protection assessment in Preah Vihear, Oddar Meanchey, and Banteay Meanchey to better understand the needs of children affected by the conflict. With UNICEF's technical and financial support, the government will lead this initiative in close coordination with national and sub-national actors. UNICEF is also supporting the development of a child protection response plan focused on mental health and psychosocial support, case management, prevention of violence, gender-based violence, protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, safeguarding, and dignity supply distribution.

Education

Education services continue to be disrupted. Over 600 schools were initially closed, with many repurposed as temporary shelters for displaced families. Although 317 schools have reopened and approximately 70 percent of students have returned, many displaced children—particularly those in internally displaced person sites or living with host families—still lack access to learning. To support continued education through temporary learning spaces, UNICEF has distributed 610 early childhood development kits and school-in-a-box kits containing basic teaching and learning materials, as well as recreational supplies, to 26 sites in Preah Vihear and Oddar Meanchey provinces. These efforts have benefited around 12,000 preschool and primary school children. In close coordination with the government, UNICEF plans to distribute self-learning materials in reading, writing, and mathematics to children affected by school closures to help mitigate learning loss. Key gaps remain in access to temporary learning spaces and teaching materials.

WASH

UNICEF, in coordination with government partners, is addressing critical water, sanitation, and hygiene challenges in displacement sites. Many temporary shelters lack access to clean water due to the absence of nearby improved water sources. Displaced families often do not have adequate containers for water collection and storage, limiting their ability to meet daily needs. Sanitation infrastructure is insufficient, with a shortage of gender-segregated latrines, facilities accessible to persons with disabilities, and proper waste management systems—heightening the risk of waterborne diseases. Hygiene promotion remains limited, and families lack essential supplies and knowledge to maintain hygiene. Urgent needs include the distribution of emergency WASH supplies, drilling of new wells, installation of temporary latrines, and delivery of hygiene education. UNICEF's response has reached at least 11,000 displaced people. Prepositioned stocks have been relocated to seven border provinces, including Siem Reap, to support coordination, resource mobilization, and potential scale-up to reach additional displaced women and children.

Social Policy

UNICEF is working closely with government and development partners to strengthen social protection measures for households affected by displacement. Joint field visits have helped identify challenges faced by beneficiary families, including disruptions in Family Package registration and grievance mechanisms. Temporary registration booths have been set up at displacement sites to facilitate access to cash assistance. UNICEF supports flexible conditions for cash transfers to pregnant women, children under two, and school-aged children across affected districts. In response to growing needs, the government is considering a one-off emergency cash transfer for approximately 70,000 households. Implementation will require improvements in identification, registration, delivery systems, and integration with digital payment platforms. UNICEF's technical support focuses on enhancing the adaptive Family Package programme, improving digital systems for secure registration and payments, and strengthening communication and monitoring mechanisms to ensure accountability and sustainability.

Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

UNICEF is working closely with government counterparts, UN agencies, and NGO partners to ensure a harmonized and effective response. UNICEF actively coordinates with the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) and the Humanitarian Response Forum (HRF) to align sectoral strategies, share information, and advocate for the needs of children and families affected by the

crisis. At the national and sub-national level, UNICEF supports national and provincial coordination platforms in affected provinces, facilitating joint planning and response efforts. This integrated approach ensures that humanitarian interventions are responsive, inclusive, and aligned with national systems, while prioritizing the most vulnerable children.

Human Interest Stories and External Media

UNICEF Cambodia launched a series of timely and strategic social media posts between 29 July and 6 August - posts reached over 3 million people, with content viewed over 6.7 million times. It also saw a 520.8% increase in engagement. Facebook saw the highest interaction, with users tagging UNICEF every 1–2 minutes.

Key posts included:

- 29 July – Distribution of WASH supplies ([Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [X](#), [LinkedIn](#))
- 30 July – Video of UNICEF Cambodia team on the ground ([Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [X](#), [LinkedIn](#))
- 31 July - Press Release: [UNICEF Scales Up Humanitarian Response](#)
- 31 July – PSEA content: Humanitarian support is ALWAYS FREE ([Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#))
- 1 August – Warning of drowning at displacement sites ([Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#))
- 2 August – Distribution of education materials ([Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [X](#), [LinkedIn](#))
- 3 August – More learning materials on the way ([Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [X](#), [LinkedIn](#))
- 4 August – Breastfeeding continues at displacement sites ([Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [X](#), [LinkedIn](#))
- 5 August – Photo carousels of children at displacement sites ([Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#))
- 6 August – Video of Young UNICEF on the ground ([Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [X](#), [LinkedIn](#))

Multimedia content from affected areas is in development to amplify children's voices and highlight ongoing needs.

Who to contact for further information:

Santepheap Heng WASH
Specialist Cambodia Country Office
Tel: +85577873776
Email: sheng@unicef.org

Alejandra van der Biest
Partnerships Specialist
Cambodia Country Office
Tel: +85593959043
Email: avanderbiest@unicef.org

Ty Chan Communications
Specialist Cambodia Country Office
Tel: +85523260204;
Email: tchan@unicef.org