

# Cambodia champions health equity at UNHRC

Taing Rinith  
rinith.taing@khmertimeskh.com

Cambodia last week detailed its work to advance the right to health, combat racial discrimination and promote international solidarity during the 62nd session of the UN Human Rights Council, where its representatives delivered two statements on the country's support for multilateral cooperation in addressing global challenges.

Speaking under Agenda Item 10 during the biennial thematic panel discussion on technical cooperation and capacity-building on Thursday, Ambassador Ke Sovann—Cambodia's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Office at Geneva—welcomed the discussion as particularly relevant amid growing global health challenges.

"Cambodia welcomes this timely discussion on technical cooperation and capacity-building in support of the right to health, particularly in the context of persistent global health inequality, emerging health threats and constrained financing," he said.

**Synopsis:** At the 62nd session of the UN Human Rights Council, Ambassador Ke Sovann outlines the Kingdom's focus on the right to health, racial equality and international cooperation, calling for greater global solidarity to address public health challenges and discrimination.

The ambassador noted that improving public health requires countries to move beyond emergency responses and strengthen resilience.

"We believe that ensuring the right to health requires a strong focus on prevention, resilience and local capacity development," he said.

Sovann pointed to the importance of the One Health approach, which recognises the interconnectedness of human, animal and environmental health.

"The One Health approach provides an important framework for technical cooperation by recognising the interdependence of human, animal and environmental health," he said. "Strengthening civilian preparedness and early warning systems is vital for anticipating and responding to

emerging threats, while ensuring equitable access to the tools needed to protect public health."

He said public health is tied to security and development, warning that conflict and disasters reverse development gains.

"Certain conditions that undermine the right to health must not be overlooked. Conflict, crises and natural disasters destroy infrastructure and disrupt essential services," he said.

"While disasters cannot always be prevented, many conflicts can and should be resolved peacefully in accordance with international law to prevent the reversal of hard-won development and public health gains."

The Cambodian representative called for a comprehensive international approach that "combines



A woman collects water outside her home in Kraing Serey village, Kampong Speu province. UNDP

technical cooperation, capacity-building, peace, resilience and solidarity is essential to fully realise the right to health for all."

During another meeting held under Agenda Item 9 on the same day, Chhuon Pagna—Second Secretary of Cambodia's Permanent Mission in Geneva—delivered Cambodia's statement during the Interactive Dialogue on the report of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerances.

She noted Cambodia's focus on equality and non-discrimination, stating that the country continues to uphold its international obligations under the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

"As a State Party to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, Cambodia remains committed to the principles of equality and non-discrimination," she said.

"These principles are embedded in our Constitution and continue to guide our efforts to foster mutual respect, inclusion and peaceful coexistence among all communities."

Pagna said combating racism requires sustained efforts through education, dialogue and cooperation among nations.

"We recognise that combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance requires sustained efforts through education, dialogue and international cooperation," she said. ■

## Government rejects border changes by force

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Gen Malek will inspect the Cambodia–Thailand border, visit the AOT headquarters, meet Malaysian personnel serving with the mission and receive a briefing on its activities.

He is also scheduled to meet National Defence Minister General Tea Seiha, and hold talks with General Vong Pisen, Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces (RCAF).

Gen Pisen said the visit aims to handle defence cooperation between Cambodia and Malaysia while allowing the Malaysian delegation to observe the situation along the border and engage with Cambodian leaders.

The delegation is expected to inspect border areas that Cambodia says have been encroached upon by Thai forces.

The visit follows Cambodia's recent request for a review of AOT activities after the RCAF raised concerns over the June 26 actions of the observer team assigned to the Thai side. Accompanied by Thai military personnel, the team had entered the area near Khnar Temple in Oddar Meanchey province and conducted activities without the approval of Cambodian authorities.

Cambodia said the actions were inconsistent with the observer mission's principles of neutrality and mutual respect, and called for adherence to the AOT's terms of reference.

On July 2, RCAF Commander-in-Chief General Vong Pisen sent a formal complaint letter regarding the incident. The complaint was addressed to General Romeo Brawner Jr, Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, who serves as the chair of the AOT mechanism.

During a field visit on June 25, the AOT,

accompanied by Cambodia's Liaison Group, visited displaced civilians in Pong Ro commune, Chong Kal district, Oddar Meanchey province, where nearly 2,000 residents remain unable to return home.

According to the Ministry of National Defence, the observers inspected the humanitarian situation and were briefed that the displacement was linked to the presence of Thai military forces in areas Cambodia says are within its territory.

Ministry spokeswoman Lieutenant General Maly Socheata said the visit showed the need for the Cambodia–Thailand Joint Boundary Commission to resume border demarcation in line with existing bilateral agreements to enable affected residents to return safely.

Cambodia does not recognise any alteration of the international boundary resulting from the use of force and remains fixed on resolving the issue in accordance with international law and previously agreed border treaties and documents, she added.

In a related development, Cambodia on July 3 protested against Thailand's continued violations of its sovereignty and territorial integrity along the shared border.

In a statement issued on July 3, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation said, on July 2, Thai armed forces installed barbed wire in two separate locations: the Mom Bei area, Preah Vihear province, and the Chob Ruan area, in Trapaing Prasat district, Oddar Meanchey province.

These actions violate the GBC Joint Statement of December 27, 2025, and breach Article 5 of the Cambodia–Thailand MOU 2000 on border survey and demarcation. ■



**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA**  
**MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT**  
**PROJECT MANAGEMENT UNIT**  
**Invitation for Bids (IFB)**

(Rebidding)

Issuing Date: 06<sup>th</sup> July 2026  
Phnom Penh, CAMBODIA

Invitation No.: CW-KHM-31-2026

Sustainable Rural Connectivity Improvement Project (SRCIP)  
Description of Work: CW-SRCIP-MRD-KHM-31-2026  
(Construction of the 41 Bridges and Access Roads in Six Provinces)  
EDCF Loan No. KHM-31

- The Royal Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia has applied for a Loan from the Export-Import Bank of Korea from the resources of the Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF) of the Republic of Korea in the amount of US\$ 60,000,000 (Sixty Million US Dollars) toward the cost of Sustainable Rural Connectivity Improvement Project (hereinafter "Project") and intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this loan to payments under the contract for CW-SRCIP-MRD-KHM-31-2026 package.
- The Project Executing Agency (PEA), Ministry of Rural Development (MRD), now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Civil Works of the Project within a duration of 32 months from the commencement date for the Contract package CW-SRCIP-MRD-KHM-31-2026, improving the connectivity of Cambodian rural areas with the total length of 13,294m pertaining to the 41 nos. of the bridges (bridge length: 2,105m) and thereof access road (road length: 11,189m), located in six (6) provinces including Tboung Khmum, Kampong Cham, Prey Veng, Kratie, Kampong Chhnang and Steung Treng.
- Bidding will be conducted through Competitive Bidding (CB) procedures specified in the Guideline for Procurement under EDCF Loans, and is open to all Korean eligible bidders that meet the following minimum qualification criteria.
  - Minimum average annual construction turnover of US\$ 40 million for the last three (3) years from 2023 to 2025.
  - Completion of at least two (2) similar contracts with each contract value of not less than 40 million USD within the last five (5) years from 2021 to the application submission deadline, that have been successfully or substantially completed. Similar contract shall include the following components under the work
    - Bridge improvement and/or new construction project, or
    - Road rehabilitation and/or improvement and/or new construction with bridge project.
  - Completion of at least two (2) contracts with a value of minimum construction experience in key activities within the last five (5) years from 2021 to the application submission deadline has been successfully or substantially completed as follows:
 

**Contract No.1:** 1(one) contract must meet the following 2 (two) categories.

    - Construction of 3,000 metres of 800mm dia. or larger cast-in-situ Bored Pile, and
    - Construction of PSC girder in bridge project or road with bridge project with minimum total length of 125 metres with at least a minimum 20 metres span.

**Contract No.2:** 1 (one) contract must meet the following 2 (two) categories

    - Construction of Embankment: 100,000 cu.m, and
    - Construction of Concrete Pavement Work of at least 8,000 cu.m.

Either Joint Venture member or all combined Joint Venture's experience must satisfy these criteria, but the Joint Venture member shall not exceed 2 (two) numbers for each Contract.
- Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from the Ministry of Rural Development and inspect the bidding documents at the addresses stated in Item 7 from the next day after this issuance to 5:00 p.m., 30<sup>th</sup> July 2026 (21 days before bid submission), Cambodia local time.
- A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by any interested Bidders or by an agent residing in Cambodia (with a letter of authorization, i.e., POA) on the submission of a written application to the address given in Item 7 and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of USD 500. The method of payment shall be in cash. The documents will be available to pick up only at the office stipulated in Item 7 during the working hours (8:00-12:00 & 14:00-17:00) from Monday to Friday except public holidays. (Bidders who have purchased Bid Docs earlier will be provided for free.)

Alternatively, any interested eligible firm with written application can purchase a complete set of bidding documents in electronic files (e.g. PDF format documents), by submitting the bank transfer receipt of USD 500 (to the following PEA's bank account) to the email addresses stipulated in Item 7:

• Bank Name: National Bank of Cambodia  
• Bank address: No. 771-773, Preah Monivong Blvd, Sangkat Boeung Trabek, Khan Chamkar Mon, Phnom Penh, Cambodia  
• Account Name: MRD: SRCI Prj EDCF KHM31-RGC Fund  
• Account No: 000000018758

- Bids must be delivered to the address stated in Item 7 at or before 20<sup>th</sup> August 2026 at 10:00 a.m., Cambodia local time. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of US Dollars One Million only (US\$1,000,000) as specified in the Bid Data Sheet in the Bidding Documents. Late bids shall be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the address below at 10:15 a.m.
- The Ministry of Rural Development will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by Bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of Bids.

**Contact Information:**

Office: Ministry of Rural Development (MRD)  
Attention: H.E. Dr. CHAN Darong  
Secretary of State

Project Director, Project Management Unit (PMU)

Sustainable Rural Connectivity Improvement Project (SRCIP)

Address: No. 771 – 773, Preah Monivong Blvd., Sangkat Boeung Trabek, Khan Chamkar Mon, Phnom Penh, Cambodia  
Telephone: (+855) 15 662 361 / (+855) 89 688 181  
E-mail: darongchan@gmail.com  
cc: puthemonna@gmail.com, apovmanich@gmail.com