PRIORITY AREA FACTSHEET

Decentralisation

Australia–Cambodia Cooperation for Equitable Sustainable Services - Phase 2

DECENTRALISATION AT A GLANCE (as of June 2026)

1,298
ACCESS 2-supported activities in local investment programs

4
Provincial agreements and coordination committees established

18
Provincial Coordination Committee meetings

261
Participants in workshops reviewing GEDSI in local plans

240
Communes appointed persons with disabilities to CCWC

12
OPDs with roles in provincial coordination structures

3,000+
Persons with disabilities engaged in planning and policy

56
Officials trained as provincial leadership trainers

ABOUT THE PRIORITY AREA

Cambodia's decentralisation and deconcentration reforms give provincial, district and commune administrations growing responsibility for planning, budgeting and delivering local services. These administrations are closest to citizens and are often their first point of contact with government.

In line with the Royal Government of Cambodia's National Program for Sub-National Democratic Development 2021–2030, ACCESS 2 works through existing government systems so that gender equality, disability inclusion and rehabilitation, along with the prevention of and response to gender-based violence (GBV), are built into local plans, budgets and services. This strengthens local ownership and helps inclusive services last beyond the life of the program.

WHAT ACCESS 2 DOES

1. **Supports social service budget spending**
Helps subnational administrations use Inter-Ministerial Circular No. 007 and Ministry of Economy and Finance Letter No. 7221, which set budget codes for social services.

2. **Builds subnational capacity**
Provides coaching during annual investment planning so GEDSI priorities are negotiated into approved commune plans and budgets.

3. **Strengthens governance platforms**
Supports Provincial Coordination Committees, Provincial Disability Action Councils and GBV Response Working Groups to bring government and civil society together.

4. **Supports inclusive decision-making**
Supports persons with disabilities, women's groups, GBV survivors and Indigenous communities to shape local priorities and monitor what is delivered.



> Mainstreaming GEDSI principles into sub-national investment programs for inclusive budgets is not only a technical task, but it is also a sub-national commitment to build a more inclusive society with leaving no one behind

H.E. Nhean Tith Chenda, Deputy Provincial Governor, Ratanakiri

WHO WE WORK WITH

Government partners

- Ministry of Interior
- Ministry of Women's Affairs
- Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation

Subnational and local administration

- Provincial administrations in the target provinces
- Provincial Disability Action Councils
- GBV Response Working Groups
- District, municipal and Commune/Sangkat administrations
- Commune Committees for Women and Children

Strategic implementing partners

- UNICEF
- Cambodian Disabled People's Organisation (CDPO)
- People's Action for Inclusive Development (PAfID)
- CARE Cambodia and Indigenous Organisations (Highlander Association & Conserve Indigenous People's Languages)
- Cambodian Women's Crisis Center (CWCC)
- Legal Aid of Cambodia (LAC)
- Transcultural Psychosocial Organisation (TPO Cambodia)
- Organisations of Persons with Disabilities

ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

1

Inclusive plans and budgets

1,298 ACCESS 2-supported GEDSI activities were included in provincial, district and commune investment programs. All five of ACCESS 2's GBV Strategic Implementing Partners now have activities in subnational and commune investment programs.

2

Clearer rules for social spending

Inter-Ministerial Circular No. 007 and Ministry of Economy and Finance Letter No. 7221 have given subnational administrations clear budget codes and certainty of reimbursement. With UNICEF and the Ministry of Interior, ACCESS 2 is supporting training of local officials to apply this guidance.

3

Coordination and Leadership

18 Provincial Coordination Committee meetings were held. 16 district Disability Action Councils (D-DAC) have been established. 56 officials received leadership training and have gone on to train over 200 of their colleagues across all four provinces.

4

Disability inclusion

Persons with disabilities have gained a stronger say in local decisions, with 240 Communes appointing persons with disabilities to Commune Committees for Women and Children (CCWC). 12 OPDs also hold roles in provincial coordination mechanisms.

SPOTLIGHTS

Communes fund accessible facilities

Organisations of persons with disabilities conducted accessibility audits of public buildings alongside commune leaders in Kampong Speu and Kampong Cham. Having seen the barriers first-hand, commune officials used their own budgets to remove them.

Communes invest in counselling rooms

After advocacy by Legal Aid of Cambodia, 11 communes in Kampong Cham, Kampong Speu and Siem Reap set up confidential counselling rooms for GBV survivors in early 2026. Six built new rooms with their own budgets. Five set aside a room in the commune office and other communes have since followed their lead.

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