PRIORITY AREA FACTSHEET

Indigenous Development

Australia–Cambodia Cooperation for Equitable Sustainable Services - Phase 2

INDIGENOUS DEVELOPMENT AT A GLANCE (to June 2026)

152
Community dialogues in Indigenous languages

4,924
People took part in community dialogues

53% to 89%
Rise in awareness of where to seek help after violence

2
Indigenous Peoples' organisations funded

15,107
Indigenous people reached by GBV prevention activities

2,633
Indigenous people in survivor support networks

216
Indigenous participants in GBV service provider training

21
Indigenous people referred to prosthetic and orthotic services

ABOUT THE PRIORITY AREA

Indigenous Peoples in Cambodia often face the greatest barriers to gender-based violence (GBV), disability and rehabilitation services. Services can be far from remote villages, few are offered in Indigenous languages and social norms can keep violence hidden. ACCESS 2 works with Indigenous Peoples' organisations, local authorities and partners to bring inclusive services closer to Indigenous communities, with a particular focus on Ratanakiri province.

Consistent with DFAT's guidance on reaching Indigenous Peoples and the Australia-Cambodia Development Partnership Plan 2025–2029[1], ACCESS 2 supports the active involvement of Indigenous communities in planning, delivering and monitoring services and invests in culturally and linguistically appropriate support.

WHAT ACCESS 2 DOES

1. **Partners with Indigenous Peoples' organisations**
Funds and mentors Indigenous Peoples' organisations to lead community dialogues, translate materials and support GBV survivors

2. **Shifts harmful social norms**
Supports community dialogues in Indigenous languages so communities can examine and change the norms that drive GBV and disability exclusion

3. **Brings services closer to home**
Supports counselling rooms, outreach and referral pathways so Indigenous GBV survivors and persons with disabilities can reach the services they need

4. **Strengthens Indigenous voices in decisions**
Supports Indigenous women, youth and leaders to shape local planning and engage directly with authorities and service providers



> "I want to be a role model for other Indigenous youth serving their communities"
>
> **Ms Sokhim Daeng, community volunteer, Conserve Indigenous Peoples Languages Organisation, Ratanakiri**

[1] DFAT, Reaching Indigenous Peoples in the Australian Aid Program: Guidance Note (2015); DFAT, Australia-Cambodia Development Partnership Plan 2025–2029.

WHO WE WORK WITH

Subnational partners

- Ratanakiri Provincial Department of Women's Affairs
- Ratanakiri Provincial Department of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation
- Ratanakiri Provincial Health Department
- Ratanakiri Provincial Disability Action Council
- Ratanakiri GBV Response Working Groups
- Ratanakiri Commune Committees for Women and Children

Strategic implementing partners

- CARE Cambodia
- Highlander Association
- Conserve Indigenous Peoples Languages Organisation (CIPL)
- Transcultural Psychosocial Organisation (TPO Cambodia)
- Exceed Worldwide
- People's Action for Inclusive Development (PAfID)

ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

1

Indigenous-led community action

The Highlander Association and the Conserve Indigenous Peoples Languages Organisation recruited and mentored community facilitators, Indigenous youth leaders and volunteers. In 2025–26, 2,659 people took part in GBV survivor support network activities, 2,633 of them Indigenous.

2

Changing norms through dialogue and evidence

152 community dialogues in Indigenous languages reached 4,924 people, and awareness of where to seek help after violence rose from 53% to 89% in target areas. CARE research involving more than 300 people found patriarchal norms are a central driver of GBV in Indigenous communities, helping to inform more inclusive services.

3

Services that reach Indigenous survivors

Confidential counselling rooms now operate in all nine districts of Ratanakiri. A case in Ratanakiri exposed gaps in support for Indigenous deaf women. Working with the Ministry of Women's Affairs, ACCESS 2 trained sign language and Indigenous language interpreters and GBV service providers in gender-sensitive, survivor-centred interpreting.

4

Indigenous voices in local decisions

Indigenous women representatives now hold seats on GBV response working groups, and communes have budgeted 164 activities on gender and disability priorities in local investment plans. In 2026–27, ACCESS 2 will pilot structured dialogues between Indigenous leaders and law enforcement.

SPOTLIGHT



Supporting inclusion for Chim Vin

Chim Vin was born in an Indigenous village in O'Chum District, Ratanakiri, with one leg much shorter than the other. Walking was painful and getting to school was hard. After an ACCESS 2-supported awareness session, village and commune authorities, CARE, the Conserve Indigenous Peoples Languages Organisation and Exceed Worldwide worked together to identify his needs and provide rehabilitation services. A prosthetic device has improved his mobility, school attendance and participation in community life.

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ACCESS 2 is supported by the Australian Government and managed by Abt Global.