



**RAPID NEEDS ASSESSMENT  
REPORT:  
CAMBODIA DISPLACEMENT CRISIS**

**Date: 7th-9th DECEMBER 2025**



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>CONTEXT OVERVIEW</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>OBJECTIVES</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>SECONDARY DATA COLLECTED ON THE AFFECTED POPULATION</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>KEY SECTORAL FINDINGS AND URGENT NEEDS</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>SECURITY</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>RESPONSE BY THE GOVERNMENT</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS</b> .....	<b>8</b>



## 1. CONTECT OVERVIEW

Since late May 2025, Cambodia and Thailand have experienced a rapid escalation of their decades-long border dispute, culminating in full-scale armed conflict on July 24, 2025. Hostilities have involved artillery strikes, air attacks, cluster munitions, and alleged targeting of civilian infrastructure such as hospitals and schools, triggering a major humanitarian crisis.

The situation remained relatively calm for a brief period following the Joint Peace Declaration on October 26, 2025, which was witnessed by Malaysia as ASEAN Chair and the President of the United States. However, tensions escalated on 10 November 2025, when four Thai soldiers were injured after stepping on a landmine, prompting Thailand to suspend the Kuala Lumpur Peace Accord the following day. Subsequent hostilities included reported gunfire against Cambodian civilians in Prey Chan Village, Banteay Meanchey Province, on November 12, 2025, resulting in one fatality and five injuries, as well as expanded military operations in Thmor Da Commune, Pursat Province, on November 17, 2025.



Small moments of calm as a baby rest in the arms of a caregiver



From December 7, 2025, the conflict escalated further along the shared border points. These renewed clashes threaten to completely derail the peace accord signed in Malaysia in October. The incident has forced hundreds of thousands of community people from Oddar Meanchey, Banteay Meanchey, Preah Vihear, Pursat, and Battambang provinces to the nearest safety centres, raising urgent concerns for humanitarian assistance and support for displaced people.

## 2. OBJECTIVES

The Rapid Needs Assessment (RNA) of the Cambodia Displacement Crisis aims to identify the actual needs of displaced families and children at the safety centers, enabling World Vision International in Cambodia (WVI-C) to respond promptly and effectively. The findings will inform the design and implementation of strategic response plans and interventions that are effective, timely, and context sensitive.

## 3. ASSESMENT METHODOLOGY

Given the conflict-sensitive context, this Rapid Needs Assessment (RNA) was conducted within WVI-C's operational areas only. A total of 53 WVI-C staff were mobilized to carry out the assessment in 3 provinces, Preah Vihear, Siem Reap, and Banteay Meanchey.

The assessment was conducted over two days, December 8-9, 2025. The data was gathered from multiple sources:



Families shelter in makeshift tents at a safety center/displacement site, using tarpaulins and hammocks for temporary living arrangements after being forced to leave their homes.

- Secondary Data Review: Available data sources from the National Committees of Disaster Management (NCDM), Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MoEYS), and other humanitarian agencies.
- Focus Group Discussion (FGD) with Community Members and Local Authorities: FDG were conducted with 240 displaced community members (157 women), 116 children (57 girls) and 115 local authorities and

safety center managers (31 women) to gather insights on challenges and needs during displacement and strengthen coordination with government stakeholders. These discussions took place across 50 displacement sites in three provinces:

- **Siem Reap: 17 safety centers**
- **Banteay Meanchey: 27 safety centers**
- **Preah Vihear: 6 safety centers**
- Field Visits and Observations: Direct visits to 50 safety centers, the host communities, and the affected populations in the 3 provinces enabled real-time observation of living conditions, infrastructure, and service availability. These visits and observations helped identify gaps and capture evidence of urgent humanitarian needs.

## 4. SECONDARY DATA COLLECTED ON THE AFFECTED POPULATION

As of December 9, 2025, the National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM) reported that 29,105 households (101,229 individuals)[1] including children, pregnant women and new mothers, elderly and persons with disabilities have been internally displaced. These individuals are being accommodated in safety centers or with relatives in the provinces of Oddar Meanchey, Preah Vihear, Banteay Meanchey, Pursat, and Siem Reap. Displaced families are sheltering in pagodas, schools, community halls, and other temporary facilities.

According to the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports (MoEYS), 883 schools have been closed, disrupting learning for 208,959 students and affecting 7,278 teachers, as of December 9, 2025.

Number of affected populations in safety centers in Banteay Meanchey, Siem Reap, and Preah Vihear (December 9, 2025), based on WVI-C's IDP Monitoring Table:


Provinces	# of Centers	# of Families	# of People	# of Women	# of Children	# of Girls
Banteay Meanchey	35	6,128	19,740	10,615	6,507	2,122
Siem Reap	17	936	3,039	1,656	1,148	566
Preah Vihear	6	2,486	7,794	4,365	824	127
Total	58	9,550	30,573	16,636	8,479	2,815

In addition, NCDM reported that as of 9 December 2025, 6 safety centers in Oddar Meanchey are accommodating 7,614 families (26,811 individuals), while Pursat province hosts 900 families in safety centers (number of safety centers was not reported)

[1] NCDM Situation Report as of 9 December 2025

## 5. KEY SECTORAL FINDINGS AND URGENT NEEDS

Provinces	Findings	Priority Needs
 <b>Food/ Non-Food Item</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Inadequate Food Provision in Safety Centers:</b> Currently supplying only limited food resources, which adversely affects the nutritional status and overall well-being of displaced communities.</li> <li>• <b>Inadequate Proper Shelter:</b> Current shelters do not provide safe, sufficient, or appropriate temporary accommodations, leaving displaced populations with minimal protection against rain and direct sunlight. The weather is now in the cold season, so some people need a sweater or blanket for support.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Food Kit:</b> Rice, Fresh Meat, dry fish, Canned fish, Vegetable oil, iodized salt, Sugar, sea and soy source, eggs.</li> <li>• <b>Cook Kit:</b> Stove, Spoon, Cook pot, plate, bowl</li> <li>• <b>Shelter Kit:</b> Tent, Mosquito net, blanket, sleeping mat and sweater</li> </ul>
 <b>WASH</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Lack of Safe Drinking Water:</b> Many evacuees don't have access to safe drinking water. This dramatically increases the risks of dehydration, the spread of waterborne diseases, and a general decline in health.</li> <li>• <b>Inadequate Sanitation and Hygiene:</b> The infrastructure for sanitation and hygiene is severely lacking. There are limited or non-functional toilets, handwashing stations, and waste disposal systems.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Water Kit:</b> Water Container (H2O), waterpoint (borehole), drinking water purifier, water pipe connects for clean water, water testing kit</li> <li>• <b>Hygiene Items:</b> Mobile hand washing, Bathing soap in pieces, laundry detergent in packs, Shampoo, toothbrush &amp; paste and Sanitary pads (only women)</li> <li>• <b>Separate bathrooms for male and female, mobile toilets,</b> material for repairing toilets, and separate toilets</li> <li>• <b>Support trash bin, safe disposal for child feces</b> and provide awareness on waste management Behavior change communication on safe water use and storage, handwashing and proper latrine use.</li> </ul>

Provinces	Findings	Priority Needs
 <p>Child Protection</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Critical Protection Concerns:</b> Inadequate safety and security measures and inadequate supervision contribute to unsafe conditions, especially during night-time. Although local authorities are on standby 24 hours in safety centers, people and children still feel fear at night and face difficulty accessing a formal reporting mechanism.</li> <li>• <b>Psychosocial and Mental Health Challenges:</b> Most people are experiencing intense psychological distress. Individuals are facing mental health symptoms, including anxiety, heightened fear, sleep disturbances, and nightmares.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Protection Staff Deployment:</b> Trained personnel to monitor and mitigate gender-based violence (GBV) risks within displacement sites.</li> <li>• <b>Child-Friendly Spaces &amp; Psychosocial Support:</b> Safe areas for children (e.g., reading camps) and dedicated units to provide emotional and mental health support. Including awareness sessions in the child-friendly spaces for children on all forms of abuse and exploitation, and how they should report when abuse happens.</li> <li>• <b>Awareness and Support for Women and Girls:</b> Community protection (CP) awareness sessions and provision of essential items for women and girls.</li> <li>• <b>Disaster Risk Awareness:</b> Education campaigns on disaster-related risks (e.g., drowning prevention).</li> <li>• <b>Feedback and Complaint Mechanism:</b> Systems for displaced individuals to report concerns and receive timely responses.</li> <li>• <b>Solar Lighting:</b> Provision of solar-powered lights to improve safety and security during nighttime in camps.</li> </ul>

Provinces	Findings	Priority Needs
 <b>Education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Schools were completely closed, and thousands of children did not bring their textbooks and study materials during the evacuation</li> </ul>	<p><b>Reading camp set-up material:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tables, chairs, tents, whiteboards, fans, electric power/solar, and other facilities</li> </ul> <p><b>Educational learning material:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Notebooks, pencils, drawing kits, learning aids. (Note: For more details, refer to Education emergency items)</li> </ul> <p><b>Education response curriculum in a conflict context</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The adapted Reading Camp curriculum and Grade 1-3 curriculum (Khmer and Mathematics foundation)</li> <li>Digital reading session</li> </ul> <p><b>Coordination</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with Provincial Department of Education (PoE)/District Office of Education (DoE) to recruit/identify Reading Camp Facilitator, Teachers and plan to run the reading camp and class</li> <li>Coordinate with PoE/DoE for student textbooks (Khmer and Math grade 1-3)</li> <li>Explore with PoE/DoE and the local authority if there is a learning space setting around to adapt our learning space</li> </ul>
 <b>Cross-Cutting: Gender Equality, Disability &amp; Social Inclusion (GEDSI)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Women and girls, particularly people with disabilities, face heightened risks and challenges, including gender-based violence, inadequate shelter security, limited access to health and hygiene services, physical inaccessibility, and unequal distribution of humanitarian aid.</li> </ul>	<p>To address the anticipated issues, the following recommendations should be implemented within the response program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide gender-segregated toilets and bathrooms in displacement camps.</li> <li>Install adequate lighting throughout the displacement camp area to enhance safety.</li> <li>Establish safe spaces for women and girls, integrated with child-friendly spaces, to offer information, psychosocial support, activities, and reporting mechanisms.</li> <li>Display behaviour protocols and complaint channels within operational areas.</li> <li>Ensure toilets and facilities are accessible for persons with disabilities, with assistance available from designated adults when needed.</li> <li>Develop inclusive targeting criteria for aid distribution and monitor delivery to guarantee gender and disability equity.</li> </ul>



## 6. SECURITY

The security situation along the Cambodia-Thailand border remains highly unstable, shaped by ongoing armed clashes and the deployment of heavy weaponry capable of causing significant damage far beyond the immediate conflict zones. In response to the escalating hostilities, the Ministry of Defense has issued a series of security directives emphasizing the need for heightened vigilance and strict adherence to safety protocols. The use of large-impact munitions, including artillery and aerial assets, has expanded the radius of potential harm, making it difficult to predict where the next escalation may occur.



As a result, authorities have identified the need for evacuation perimeters extending approximately 70 to 100 kilometers from active fighting areas, depending on the intensity and trajectory of the conflict. Civilian safety remains a central concern, as communities living near the border face risks from indirect fire, depending on the intensity and trajectory of the conflict. Civilian safety remains a central concern, as communities living near the border face risks from indirect fire, unexploded ordnance, and sudden shifts in military activity. To minimize exposure to danger, strict movement restrictions have been imposed, particularly around designated military operational zones. These areas are now completely off-limits to civilians due to ongoing tactical operations, troop deployments, and the possibility of targeted attacks. The restrictions are intended not only to protect civilians but also to preserve the integrity of military activities and prevent accidental interference.

## 7. RESPONSE BY THE GOVERNMENT

Through assessment findings, it has been established that the government and local authorities have implemented several interventions to support affected communities. The Provincial Authorities have provided safe shelter, electricity, limited water supply, materials, food assistance, hygiene kits, drinking water, tents, waste disposal facilities, mosquito nets, and access to basic health services.

However, the magnitude of the crisis has created significant gaps in service delivery, particularly in shelter, food security, water and sanitation, and health care. These gaps highlight the urgent need for stronger support and collaboration from non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the private sector to complement government efforts and ensure a comprehensive and effective humanitarian response.

Additionally, on 9 December 2025, the Ministry of Interior (MoI) issued a formal letter to provincial governors of border provinces near Thailand, instructing them to protect and provide security for people, territory, and sovereignty. Principle 3 of the letter calls on development partners, domestic and international NGOs, and other stakeholders to provide emergency assistance to displaced populations.

8. Conclusion and Recommendations

## 8. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Prioritize the establishment and deployment of teams** to provide food assistance during emergencies.
- Deploy rapid shelter kits and essential non-food items (NFIs) to support displaced families.
- **Initiate emergency WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene)** interventions, including the distribution of water purification tablets and the construction of temporary latrines.
- **Activate child protection services and family tracing mechanisms** to safeguard vulnerable children and reunite separated families.
- **Set up the child-friendly spaces and Reading Camps** to support the children. And consider working with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MoEYS), and the Education departments at the sub-national level to open the teaching classes in the displacement sites.
- **Set up Feedback and Complaint Mechanism Systems** for displaced individuals to report concerns and receive timely responses.

### Annex:

1. Rapid Assessment Form\_Khmer Version.docx



# OUR MISSION

World Vision is an international partnership of Christians whose mission is to follow our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ in working with the poor and oppressed to promote human transformation, seek justice, and bear witness to the good news of the Kingdom of God.



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