



# Cambodia

Bringing Hope to a Broken People

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## Cambodia's Turbulent History

Over the past 400 years Cambodia was controlled by Thailand, Vietnam, or France. From 1975-1979 its people endured the darkest chapter of their history, the rule of Pol Pot. With his radical brand of communism, Pol Pot depopulated the cities and sent people to work in the rural rice fields.

The powerful, the educated, and those who opposed his rule were killed. Within only three years, approximately two million Cambodians perished from starvation, disease, or outright murder.

These past events have left Cambodians with little hope and an uncertain future. While some still live hand to mouth, there is a rising middle class culture. Globalization has brought with it technology that has transformed the cities over the past decade. But rapid change also brings many problems.

Cambodia continues to be predominately rural with the older generations holding onto the traditions and religion of the past. The new generation knows little of their tragic history and wants to financially compete in a global economy. In the place of traditional religion, they have new gods of money and humanism, leaving them spiritually empty... and hungry!

## The People

The population of Cambodia is approximately 15.8 million people. The Khmer, the predominant ethnic group, account for 85% of the population. There are more than one dozen minority groups including the immigrant Vietnamese, Cham (Muslim), Chinese, Kui, Lao, Jarai, Kreung and the Tempuan.

Cambodia is a land of mighty rivers and monsoons in the rainy season, dry river beds, brittle brush, and parched rice fields in the dry season. It is a land of Buddhist temples, a struggling infrastructure, and a broken people who have little hope for the future.

Today Cambodians are physically and spiritually impoverished due to a turbulent national history, most recently under the horrific Pol Pot regime. The political situation has calmed in the last two decades (now a constitutional monarchy) allowing organizations of all kinds to enter in to help.

In a culture where the inclination is to let someone else do it, World Team is training and equipping Cambodian believers to reach their own people for Christ.



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# Training and Releasing Leaders

World Team has been working in Cambodia since 1996 to bring hope and healing through the establishment of reproducing churches throughout the country. While the church is growing, it is still shallow, requiring discipleship and leadership development. We need your help to make this vision a reality —come join the work in Cambodia!

**Innovative teams** characterize the Cambodia field with ministries ranging from schools for the poor, medical ministries, business approaches, teacher training initiatives, modular Bible schools, and grass roots evangelism/church planting in six locations, serving three distinct people groups.

In response to the felt needs of the peoples our teams serve, workers have created initiatives to help provide a better quality of life for the Cambodian people —all while impacting the community for Christ.

## Ministry Care and Oversight

The team in the capital city of Phnom Penh supports workers through pastoral care, hospitality, recruitment, and administration.

Mercy Medical Center is also located in Phnom Penh and exists to *proclaim* Christ in word and deed by *providing* excellent healthcare and *preparing* nationals to do the same.

## Vietnamese

There are over one million Vietnamese in-country. They are the poorest of the poor, most barely earning a living. Relationships are built through literacy classes, medical and food relief, microfinance, and youth activities.

## The Cham

A largely disenfranchised and impoverished minority within Cambodia, they make their living by farming, fishing, building boats, and light commerce. Workers are needed to serve among the Cham where progress has been slow.

## Ministry Overview

People	Khmer, Vietnamese and Cham
Language	Khmer, Vietnamese and Cham (Muslim)
Location	Cambodia
Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Leadership development</li><li>• Pastoral, theological and missiology training</li><li>• Children and youth ministry</li><li>• Evangelism and discipleship</li><li>• Medical professionals</li><li>• Educators</li><li>• Church planters</li><li>• Agriculturalist</li><li>• Accounting and Administration</li><li>• Business as Mission</li></ul>

*Cambodia is hungry for hope! Opportunities abound to minister to the physical and spiritual needs of the Khmer, Vietnamese and Cham peoples, and there is an open door NOW!*

*Church planting in Cambodia reflects the diverse needs of the people and the unique opportunities for innovative outreach. All of our teams need short, mid, and long-term reinforcements!*



**Join the Team!**

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