

# Provincial Policy Forum

Local Knowledge Matters:  
Impact of COVID-19 on Vulnerable Groups



August 18, 2022

Battambang Province, Cambodia



# PROVINCIAL POLICY FORUM

Local Knowledge Matters:  
Impact of COVID-19 on Vulnerable Groups

August 18, 2022  
Battambang Province, Cambodia





# Table of Contents

Acknowledgments .....i

Credits .....ii

Introduction.....1

Using Data to Inform Decision:  
How Local Government Uses Data to Respond to the needs of  
Vulnerable People during the COVID-19 Pandemic.....3

Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on Local Indigenous Communities’  
Socioeconomics:  
A Case Study from Stung Treng Province.....5

Impact of COVID-19 on Students’ Learning and Dropouts:  
A Case Study in Kratie Province.....9

The Impact of COVID-19 on Child Protection and Wellbeing:  
A Case Study from Battambang Province.....12

Conclusion.....16

Agenda.....19

---

## Acknowledgments

The Asia Foundation (The Foundation) gratefully acknowledges the contributions that many individuals, organizations, and funders that have made the Ponlok Chomnes National Policy Forum possible.

The Foundation would like to thank its emerging research partners for their input and collaboration in designing the panel discussions; the guest speakers and moderators for their insights during the discussions; and the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade for its funding support.

## About Ponlok Chomnes

Ponlok Chomnes: Data and Dialogue for Development in Cambodia is a four-year initiative (2019-2023) to strengthen the capacity of the knowledge sector and inform public policy analysis and dialogue in Cambodia. In partnership with the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, The Asia Foundation is strengthening organizational and technical capacity among Cambodian research institutions and creating an enabling environment for policy dialogue.

## About The Asia Foundation

The Asia Foundation is a nonprofit international development organization committed to improving lives across a dynamic and developing Asia. Informed by six decades of experience and deep local expertise, our work across the region is focused on good governance, women's empowerment and gender equality, inclusive economic growth, environment and climate action, and regional and international relations.

# Credits

---

## The Asia Foundation Team

Chea Limeng  
Chea Yorn  
Diya Nag  
Meloney Lindberg  
Men Pechet  
Min Samneang  
Mouk Maelen  
Ngin Pisit  
Phuong Sothiny  
Prak Rathyrea  
Sareth Srey Sroh  
Sary Phirum

## Ponlok Chomnes Emerging Research Partners

Khmer Association for  
Development of Countryside  
Komar Rikreay Association  
My Village Organization

## Funding

Ponlok Chomnes: Data and Dialogue for Development in Cambodia Program is supported by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and implemented by The Asia Foundation.

## Disclaimer

This Provincial Policy Forum was supported by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade through The Asia Foundation's Ponlok Chomnes: Data and Dialogue for Development in Cambodia program. The views expressed in this booklet are the authors' alone and are not necessarily the views of the Australian Government or The Asia Foundation.













# Introduction

For more than two years, the COVID-19 pandemic put immense pressure on many sectors in Cambodia, slowing down economic and social development. Although stakeholders have been working tirelessly to address the challenges emerging from the pandemic, including government and non-government institutions, some of these challenges have affected certain groups more acutely.

Marginalized and vulnerable groups across Cambodia were particularly impacted and continue to experience difficulties and hardship as they adapt their lives to the current dynamic context and find ways to recover from the direct and indirect effects of the pandemic. COVID-19 has limited their access to necessary resources and basic needs. For example, vulnerable children are more prone to facing roadblocks to accessing healthcare, nutritious foods, and quality education. The pandemic also affected citizens' participation in their local level planning processes due to the restrictions on in-person gatherings; and resulted in adverse socioeconomic impacts.

COVID-19 cases have steadily and rapidly declined in Cambodia, which has also vaccinated a large percentage of its population, but the pandemic has left behind some key lessons on social inclusion. Having in place robust recommendations to continue the efforts of key players will aid in both Cambodia's recovery and future investments.

Ponlok Chomnes has supported its Emerging Research Partners to conduct various pieces of research that examine the impacts of COVID-19 on several sectors, including the impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable groups such as children and indigenous people in Cambodia. The research provides on-the-ground information and data and contributes towards an increased and deeper understanding of the actual impacts of the pandemic on citizens at the local level.

While national data is significant for national level policymaking, local level knowledge and/or data is important for issues emerging at the local level; thereby contributing to interventions by local authorities that are tailored to the needs of people on the ground.

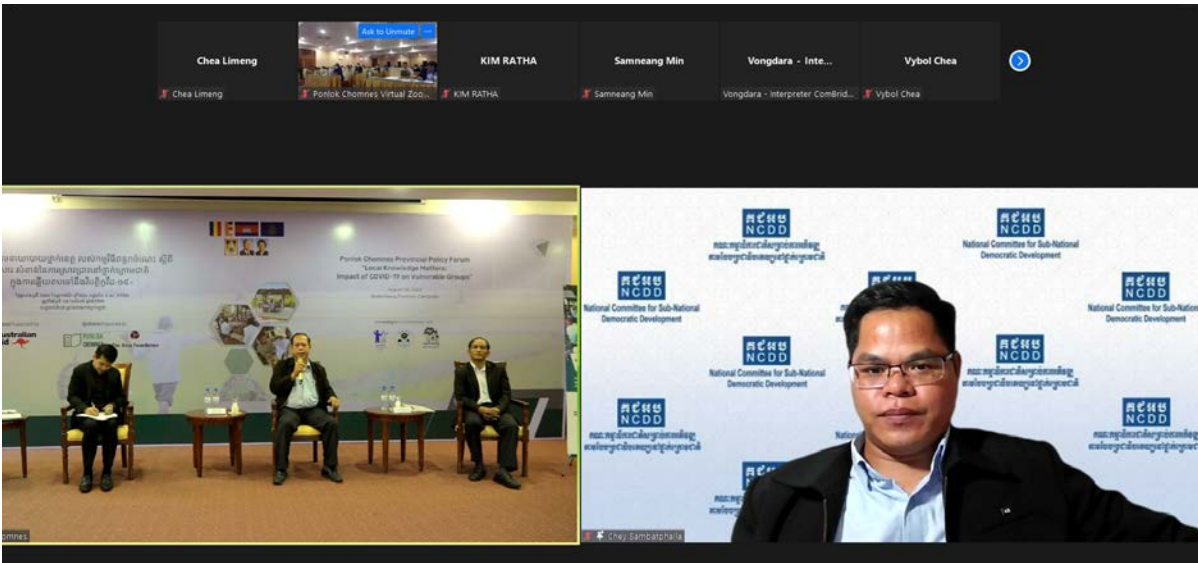
Therefore, in collaboration with its emerging research partners namely: Khmer Association for Development of Countryside (KAFDOC), Komar Rikreay Association (KMR), and My Village Organization (MVi); the Ponlok Chomnes program organized a Provincial Policy Forum to convene provincial government representatives, local non-governmental organizations (NGOs), as well as knowledge producers to showcase their research, discuss, exchange knowledge, and network with knowledge users, including policy makers and policy practitioners at the provincial level (from Battambang, Kratie, and Stung Treng provinces). This Provincial Policy Forum aimed to build knowledge to inform policymaking at the sub-national level.

The objectives of the Ponlok Chomnes Provincial Policy Forum were to communicate research and data that responds to policy needs to better inform Cambodia's COVID-19 response and to tailor this response to the needs of vulnerable groups at the provincial level; promote knowledge exchange and policy discussion between policy makers and stakeholders at the national and provincial levels; and to create an enabling environment where knowledge sector actors could meet to discuss and broaden their networks and build a strong knowledge sector community at the provincial level.

The Ponlok Chomnes Provincial Policy Forum booklet on “Local Knowledge Matters: Impact of COVID-19 on Vulnerable Groups in Cambodia” contains six sections, including the Introduction; Opening Plenary Discussion on Using Data to Inform Decisions: How the Local Government Uses Data to Respond to the Communities' Needs during the COVID-19 Pandemic; Plenary Discussions on Learning Challenges and School Dropouts during COVID-19: A Case Study in Kratie Province; Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Local Indigenous Communities' Socioeconomics: A Case Study from Stung Treng Province; the Impact of COVID- 19 on Child Protection and Wellbeing: A Case Study from Battambang Province; and the Conclusion.



# Using Data to Inform Decision: How Local Government Uses Data to Respond to the needs of Vulnerable People during the COVID-19 Pandemic



In the past two years, the Coronavirus has put immense pressure on Cambodia’s public health system. However, the government’s effort to roll out its vaccination program and build its capacity to respond quickly and effectively has kept the pandemic under control.

The pandemic has impacted the livelihoods of local people, including marginalized and vulnerable groups, who suffered from income loss, economic hardship, and health problems. The national leadership and policies have provided guidance and direction to sub-national administrations to control the spread of the pandemic and deliver necessary services to people at risk. For instance, local authorities have facilitated food distribution, access to essential health services, and other services in local communities. They have also supported the government in identifying eligible people for Cambodia’s social welfare program, ID Poor, and its cash transfer program.

Local-level knowledge and/or data is essential to identify issues emerging at the local level, thereby contributing to interventions by local authorities tailored to the needs of people on the ground. The plenary discussion on “Using Data to Inform Decision: How the Local Government Uses Data to Respond to the Communities’ Needs During the COVID-19 Pandemic” draws on insights from key stakeholders from the national and subnational levels.

## Discussion Summary

In response to the pandemic, the national government, along with the local government, has used the Commune Database, ID-Poor Database, and others with data provided by the sub-national government to understand the local situation, financial status, immigration, and others, which is valuable for the government to intervene promptly. Furthermore, the local data is essential to identify the newly poor household due to COVID-19 who are eligible for the government's cash transfer program. Additionally, this data plays a crucial role in supporting the government in rolling out vaccination campaigns at the local level, contributing to the prevention of the spread of COVID-19, and opening up the country for economic recovery.

To collect the data, the local government has worked closely with the national government to ensure that the data is accurately collected, used, and shared. The local government uses a hybrid method to collect data, including digital and hardcopy formats. However, there are some challenges in data collection, particularly handwriting or using hardcopy, which is slow and needs to be typed into the digital system, potentially resulting in errors. The local government has limited resources to provide digital equipment to all villages.

Collaboration amongst stakeholders is very vital. The local government has to work in close contact with the sub-national committee to collect accurate and shareable data in the national database. Those data are crucial in responding to the needs of local people and making a plan for a short- and long-term period.

### Moderator



Mr. Men Pechet  
Program Manager  
The Asia Foundation



H.E. Iv Kosal  
Director  
Provincial Department of Planning,  
Battambang Province



Mr. Chey Sambath Phalla  
Director of Policy Analysis and  
Development Division, National Committee  
for Sub-National Democratic Development  
(NCDD)



Mr. Sa Roeurn  
Deputy Director  
Provincial Department of Social Affairs,  
Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation,  
Battambang Province



# Impact of COVID19 Pandemic on Local Indigenous Communities’ Socioeconomics: A Case Study from Stung Treng Province



The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the globe as the virus spread across all continents. In the Mekong region, it has especially affected marginalized populations, including migrant workers, garment industry workers, indigenous and ethnic minorities, refugees, internally displaced peoples/ migrants, urban slum-dwellers, and people working in the informal sector, such as sex workers (CARE, 2020).

In Cambodia, surveys were conducted in 2020 by Future Forum and Angkor Research on the impact of COVID-19 on Cambodia. This research included findings on the economic impact of COVID-19, impacts on wagedworkers, the effect of COVID-19 on farmers, household enterprises, and savings and debts. While the surveys by Future Forum and Angkor Research focused on quantitative data and provided a bigger picture on the impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable households, My Village’s (MVi) research takes a deeper look into indigenous communities in Stung Treng province specifically.

MVi’s research highlights that COVID-19 has had negative impacts on indigenous people’s livelihoods, employment and income, education, migration patterns, health, and natural resources. As a result of COVID-19, many indigenous individuals suffered economic hardship. For instance, the price of fish decreased due to decreased demand and interruptions in the value chain which negatively impacted seller’s ability to earn income from

their catch. Migrant workers returned home because they were concerned about their health security and this resulted in many of them losing their jobs. Schools were closed because of COVID-19 and this increased education inequality. Health was impacted because it was difficult to access health services due to restrictions on travel. Some migrants also relied on forest and fishery resources which may put additional pressure on natural resources.

The plenary discussion on “The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Local Indigenous Communities’ Socioeconomics: A Case Study from Stung Treng Province” discussed the research findings by MVi and how these findings can be integrated into local government, provincial department, civil society organizations (CSOs), commune council and local community recovery plans.



According to the survey by MVi on the impacts of COVID-19 on indigenous communities, the income of the people in the community reduced during the COVID-19 outbreak because of the inability to sell their farm products and fish due to travel restrictions. Those working outside of the community who lost their jobs returned to the community to live with their families and seek local employment. This sudden pressure on the local economy increased competition for scarce jobs. A positive outcome was that people reported being more aware of their health. They learned how to protect themselves by washing their hands frequently and wearing masks.

Unfortunately, some private health service centers became reluctant to admit patients as they were afraid of the spread of COVID-19. Students' learning also became a concern. Because of school closures, the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sport began using video lessons that could be accessed through television channels and mobile applications. However, many students did not have a way to access the videos. Additionally, it was difficult for indigenous students to learn through the videos because all the teaching videos were conducted in the Khmer language and were not available in local languages. Though hardcopies of homework were distributed to students, they often lacked support at home or in the community when they had questions or needed extra help. Some students also worked on their family farms during the school closures so were unable to get the schoolwork. The survey also saw a reported increase in domestic violence as respondents noted that parents spent more time at home and consumed alcohol.

Despite the efforts put forth by the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sport, the Stung Treng Department of Education, Youth, and Sport faced some challenges. The students' homes were far from one another, and teachers could not reach them because of the road conditions in remote areas. Another challenge was that the Khmer teachers could not communicate effectively with the indigenous students, and online learning was ineffective because of limited internet access.

Shortly after the COVID-19 pandemic hit, the Stung Treng Administration formed Anti-COVID-19 Committees that responded to the COVID-19 situation across the province. The Anti-COVID-19 Committees turned the hospital into a COVID-19 treatment center and quarantine center. Additionally, the government began issuing ID Poor verification to vulnerable households for cash assistance as part of the government social protection program.

As the COVID-19 situation has improved, a focus on indigenous communities’ livelihoods should be considered. The government should have an assistance package to support those in debt as part of the recovery strategy plan. While pursuing technology to further students’ learning, adaptation to the local context is significant. It would be helpful to source youth with more education in the community to support and teach younger children with less education. Furthermore, since the COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted the education system for almost two years, an assessment should be conducted to explore the students’ capacity to design a plan that supports their scholastic needs. Civil society and local government should orient people in the community on how to use social media channels such as Telegram and Facebook to access information that can be useful for the development of their community. Additionally, the government should consider including lessons learned from the Village-Commune Safety Policy so as to prepare the local authorities for future pandemics.

**Moderator**



Dr. Lonn Pichdara  
Executive Director  
My Village Organization (MVi)



Mr. Nhem Vannayouth  
Deputy Director  
Stung Treng Provincial Administration

**Panelist**



Mr. Set Piseth  
Vice-chief of Office  
Department of Education Youth  
and Sport of Stung Treng Province



Mr. Por Narith  
Advisor  
MY Village Organization (MVi)



# Impact of COVID-19 on Students' Learning and Dropouts: A Case Study in Kratie Province



In Cambodia, during the school closures educational institutions were compelled to move their traditional face-to-face classrooms to an online learning and teaching environment. Teachers and school personnel were also impacted significantly as restrictions on public gatherings interrupted teacher training. Within a very short period of time, teachers had to adapt to new teaching methods.

Children in Cambodia have also faced issues where young students from low- and middle-income households struggled with their studies at the primary school level. Some families did not have access to internet and many underprivileged families cannot afford the electronic devices needed to access the lessons, such as smartphones and tablets. Some families also relied on their children to earn income or take on additional domestic duties during the pandemic.

The plenary discussion on “Learning Challenges and School Dropouts during COVID-19: A Case Study in Kratie Province” discussed learning challenges and school dropouts in Kratie, the future of teaching, and explored the roles of relevant stakeholders in improving quality primary education.



## Discussion Summary

Based on a survey conducted by the Khmer Association for Development of Countryside (KAFDOC) conducted in 2020 with mostly primary age students from low-income families representing 15 primary schools in Kratie province, many students reported challenges related to learning during the pandemic. The major challenge noted was accessing the online lessons because of lack of internet, lack of equipment (smartphones, tablets), or both. The children reported that the online classes were less interactive than in the classroom and so they felt bored and paid less attention to their studies. Teachers noted that they were required to learn new online teaching platforms that were ineffective as they lacked interaction and made it hard to share learning materials with students. Internet coverage was another issue as some schools are located in remote areas where internet bandwidth was low and unstable. As a result, the dropout and repetition rate at primary school increased. The survey found that about 5-6% of primary school students dropped out, with the majority being female and 12.7% of students repeating the class during the COVID-19 outbreak.

During the school closure, the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sport, issued various regulations regarding remote teaching, such as pre-recorded teaching videos on TV channels and mobile applications. Hard copies of homework were also distributed to students during the school closure. Teachers were instructed on how to use technology for teaching and communicating with students. Teachers and school directors paid visits to children's houses when possible to provide technical support on the online learning tools, such as installing smartphone apps and providing face masks, hand sanitizers, and soap.

There are several recommendations to improve student learning and reduce the dropout rate. Teaching should be more inclusive. Teachers should be supported and trained to teach students with disabilities, such as auditory difficulties. Multilingual education should be provided to ensure that ethnic minority children also have opportunities to learn. Teachers' capacity in IT skills should also be strengthened, including using computers to store data and how to use online applications for teaching and communication, as it can help them to more easily and quickly adapt to remote teaching in the case of future pandemics. Improving literacy was also found to be an important component to reduce the dropout rate.



Children who are able to read well reported more desire to continue their studies than those who cannot. Youth should be encouraged to help younger students with their reading. Moreover, reading centers should be established, especially at schools where children have higher levels of reading difficulties. The government departments, development partners, and NGOs should collaborate to mobilize resources to support children who lack learning materials and transportation to school.

Moderator	Panelist		
			
Mr. Hun Sothea Program Coordinator Khmer Association for Development of Countryside (KAFDOC)	Mr. Choeung Monorom Deputy Chief of Education Office in Chhlong District, Kratie Province	Mr. An Sithy Director Kandal Village Primary School	Mr. Uk Yuth Executive Director Khmer Association for Development of Countryside (KAFDOC)



## The Impact of COVID- 19 on Child Protection and Wellbeing: A Case Study from Battambang Province



The impact of COVID-19 on children and families goes far beyond infections alone. Schools have closed, and household incomes are being affected, with significant challenges faced by people living below, at, or slightly above the poverty line. Many families living in cramped conditions like slum areas are particularly vulnerable to virus outbreaks. Amid this crisis, children are at heightened risk of abuse, violence, and exploitation, and psychological distress in the absence of parental care because some of their parents have migrated to other places for employment opportunities.

Many children are at risk of exposure to violence, including sexual violence, physical and emotional abuse, and witnessing intimate partner violence. This may result from caregivers and other adult family members becoming increasingly stressed and distressed, damage to the social fabric that can provide communal safeguards, and the use of dysfunctional coping mechanisms to deal with the challenging environment (e.g., alcohol abuse). The social and economic disruptions caused by the outbreak of COVID-19 present many other risks to children's right to education and their wellbeing and protection. Online learning (spending more time online) may also increase the risks of exposure to online abuse and exploitation.

The plenary discussion on “The Impact of COVID- 19 on Child Protection and Wellbeing: A Case Study from Battambang Province” discussed the re- search findings that can be integrated into local recovery plans.





In 2021, Komarikreay Association conducted a study on ‘The Impact of COVID-19 on Child Protection and Well-being in 10 villages in Battambang province’ with 150 parents and caretakers and 150 children aged between 11 -17 years old. Though the sample was small, the study found that COVID-19 affected caretakers and children as they reported experiencing stress and anxiety. About 90% of families lost their jobs due to travel restrictions and increased domestic violence has been observed.

School closures greatly impacted those surveyed. Regarding online learning, most parents knew that their children could use smartphones to access online classes, yet they lacked the knowledge to protect them from online abuse or the basics of online safety. Additionally, the study found that about 60% of children respondents were unhappier than before COVID-19, and 40% felt hopeless. Caretakers or parents also noticed changes in children’s sleeping patterns and noted disruption to their children’s sleep. Some children became more aggressive, passive, and less communicative with others.

According to a panelist who worked on children’s issues, the more people live in the same place, the higher the possibility of abuse affecting children’s wellbeing. Dealing with this issue requires all relevant stakeholders, including the local government, NGOs, and families, to work together.

The Provincial Women and Children’s Consultative Committee has conducted regular meetings to understand children’s wellbeing impacted by COVID-19 and to discuss solutions virtually with the district and commune. As a result, the subnational government has worked with various stakeholders to provide food, essential supplies, and school supplies to vulnerable families. Awareness-raising activities have been conducted with the community, including on the topics of using encouraging language toward small children, positive attitudes at homes and schools, how to prevent the spread of COVID-19, and the importance of emotional support within the family.

Moving forward, relevant stakeholders from governmental and non-governmental institutions should collaborate to support children and vulnerable families. Additional studies should be conducted to assess the support program implementation by different stakeholders and propose interventions that best address the issues in the long term.

Moderator



Mr. Khun Bunlee  
Director  
Khmer NGO for Education



H.E. Sakoeurt Phavan  
Deputy Head of Provincial Women's and  
Children's Consultative Committees  
Battambang Province

Panelist



Ms. Prom Kimchheng  
Executive Director  
Komar Rikreay Association (KMR)



Mr. Hor Kosal  
Senior Program Manager  
Hagar International Cambodia





## Conclusion

The Ponlok Chomnes Provincial Policy Forum on “Local Knowledge Matters: The Impact of COVID-19 on Vulnerable Groups in Cambodia” engaged 50 participants, including subnational government representatives from provincial to commune levels, researchers, civil society, policymakers, policy experts, and students from Battambang, Kratie, and Stung Treng provinces. The event discussed the importance of data from the local community to support the national government to address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and three case studies on the impacts of COVID-19 on indigenous people, students’ learning, and child protection.

The Provincial Policy Forum is one of the flagship events of the Ponlok Chomnes program, which supports various local organizations in conducting action research to collect timely data that responds to issues local people face during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Some of the key takeaways from the forum include:

- Data from the community and sub-national levels are critical for the national government to develop policy and intervention programs as well as to measure progress through implementation;
- Digitization should be further improved for data collection at the local level to ensure accuracy and save time and resources; Marginalized groups should be prioritized so that quantitative and qualitative data is collected that speaks to their specific needs;
- There are many lessons learned from Cambodia’s experience during the COVID-19 pandemic that should be applied to prepare communities and organizations for future pandemics or disruptions to accessible healthcare and education;
- Collaboration amongst various stakeholders is vital to ensure inclusive interventions and resource mobilization; and
- Localization of national programs/interventions is significant to ensure the effectiveness of the implementation and adaptability of the community.









## Agenda

**Ponlok Chomnes Provincial Policy Forum**  
**Local Knowledge Matters:**  
**Impact of COVID-19 on Vulnerable Groups in Cambodia**

**Date:** August 18, 2022

**Location:** Krong Battambang, Battambang Province, Cambodia

**Organized by**

Ponlok Chomnes Program, The Asia Foundation

**Venue:** Stung Sangke Hotel

Time	Agenda	Note
8:00 am – 8:30 am	Registration	The Asia Foundation Team
8:30 am – 8:35 am	Forum Opening and National Anthem	MC
8:35 am – 8:45 am	Welcoming Remarks	Ms. Meloney C. Lindberg Country Representative The Asia Foundation
8:45 am – 9:00 am	Opening Remarks	Mr. Andreas Zurbrugg Australian Deputy Ambassador to Cambodia
9:00 am – 9:15 am	Keynote Address	H.E. Khuoy Rida Battambang Provincial Deputy Governor
9:15 am – 9:30 am	Group Photo	Ponlok Chomnes Team
9:30 am – 10:00 am	Coffee Break	

10:00 am – 11:30 am	<p><b>Opening Plenary Discussion:</b></p> <p>Using Data to Inform Decision: How Local Government Uses Data to Respond to the Needs of Vulnerable People during the COVID-19 Pandemic</p> <p><i>Q&amp;A Session</i></p>	<p><b>Panelists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- H.E. Iv Kosal, Director of Provincial Department of Planning, Battambang Province</li> <li>- Mr. Chey Sambath Phalla, Director of Policy Analysis and Development Division, National Committee for Sub-National Democratic Development (NCDD)</li> <li>- Mr. Sa Roeurn, Deputy Director of Provincial Department of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation, Battambang Province</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mr. Men Pechet, Program Manager, The Asia Foundation</li> </ul>
11:30 am – 1:15 pm	Lunch	
1:15 pm – 2:30 pm	<p><b>Plenary Discussion:</b></p> <p>Impact of COVID-19 on Indigenous People: A Case Study in Stung Treng Province</p> <p><i>Q&amp;A Session</i></p>	<p><b>Panelists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mr. Nhem Vannayouth, Deputy Director of Stung Treng Provincial Administration</li> <li>- Mr. Set Pisith, Vice-chief of Office of Department of Education, Youth and Sport of Stung Treng</li> <li>- Mr. Por Narith, Advisor to MY Village Organization</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dr. Lonn Pichdara, Executive Director, My Village Organization (MVi)</li> </ul>

2:30 pm – 2:45 pm	Coffee Break	
2:45 pm – 4:00 pm	<b>Plenary Discussion:</b>  Impact of COVID-19 on Students' Learning and Dropouts: A case study in Kratie Province  <i>Q&amp;A Session</i>	<b>Presenter:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mr. Choeung Monorom, Deputy Chief of Education Office in Chhlong District, Kratie Province</li> <li>- Mr. An Sithy, School Director, Kandal Village primary school</li> <li>- Mr. Uk Yuth, Executive Director, Khmer Association for Development of Countryside (KAFDOC)</li> </ul> <b>Moderator:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mr. Hun Sothea, Program Coordinator, KAFDOC</li> </ul>
4.00 pm – 5:15 pm	<b>Plenary Discussion:</b>  Impact of COVID-19 on Child Protection: A Case Study in Battambang Province  <i>Q&amp;A Session</i>	<b>Panelists:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- H.E Sakoeurt Phavan, Deputy Head of Provincial Women's and Children's Consultative Committees (WCCC), Battambang Province</li> <li>- Ms. Prom Kimchheng, Executive Director, Komar Rikreay Association (KMR)</li> <li>- Mr. Hor Kosal, Senior Program Manager of Hagar International Cambodia</li> </ul> <b>Moderator:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mr. Khun Bunlee, Director of Khmer NGO for Education</li> </ul>
5:15 pm – 5:30 pm	Closing Remarks	Mr . Andreas Zurbrugg Australian Deputy Ambassador to Cambodia
5:30 pm	End of Program	

Ponlok Chomnes is a four-year initiative (2019-2023) to strengthen the capacity of the knowledge sector and inform public policy analysis and dialogue in Cambodia. In partnership with the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, The Asia Foundation is strengthening organizational and technical capacity among Cambodian research institutions and creating an enabling environment for policy dialogue.

## CONTACT US

### THE ASIA FOUNDATION | CAMBODIA OFFICE

#59, Oknha Peich (Street 242) Phnom Penh, Cambodia

[ponlokchomnes@asiafoundation.org](mailto:ponlokchomnes@asiafoundation.org)

+855 (0)23 210 431

<https://policypulse.org/>