

FAMILY PLANNING

Our strategy

UNFPA believes in a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every birth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled. Access to a choice of family planning methods is a fundamental reproductive right for women and young people.

Our work

Improved awareness and knowledge

Understanding the benefits is essential for individuals and couples to use contraception. UNFPA works to improve Cambodian women's, men's, couples' and young people's knowledge and understanding of contraception. In line with government strategies, we support a range of initiatives to increase understanding and use of contraception. These are adapted to various audiences and include media spots on longer term methods, integration of age appropriate information on contraception into comprehensive sexuality education in schools and the Loy9 multi-media youth initiative, peer education with entertainment workers and outreach in rural communities.

Building midwives' capacity to provide contraceptive choices

UNFPA supports in-service training to develop the competency of health providers working at the grassroots level to provide family planning information and services. Recently, midwives have been trained on counselling skills, IUD insertion, implant use and emergency contraception. There are regular refresher trainings to update midwives' skills in this area. UNFPA also supports the Ministry of Health in developing and updating technical guidelines and protocols to guide the public health system in providing contraceptive services.



Photo: UNFPA Cambodia

The Facts :

- Cambodian women are increasingly likely to use contraception. Between 2005 and 2010 the proportion of married women using modern contraception increased from 27% to 35%.
- Many women who want to space or limit their family are still not using contraception. The unmet need for contraception remains high at 17%.
- Most married women know something about contraception – more than 95% have heard of the pill, condom, IUD and injectables.
- Use of contraception in Cambodia varies with location, education level and income.
- Short-term methods of contraception remain the most popular and there is potential to further promote the usefulness of longer-term methods such as IUDs and implants.
- Concerns and misconceptions about side-effects lead many women to give up modern methods of contraception.
- New contraceptive methods are being introduced and are increasingly being made available, but some women, such as those who are young, unmarried or marginalised, still lack access to contraception.

(Cambodia Demographic and Health Surveys, 2005 and 2010)

