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CORRUPTION AND CAMBODIAN HOUSEHOLDS

Household Survey on Perceptions, Attitudes and Impact of Everyday Forms of Corrupt Practices in Cambodia

CENTER FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

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This is a publication of the Center for Social Development (CSD), Phnom Penh, Cambodia. CSD is a non-governmental organization, advocating for good governance through the institutionalization of democratic values and principles. CSD supports social equity and justice and sustainable economic development, by building citizen participation in the democratic process. CSD conducts public meetings on national issues, and acts as a non-partisan and neutral forum for open and candid debates on issues of concern to society.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

BKK	Bangkok
CAS	Center for Advanced Study
CSD	Center for Social Development
CSES	Cambodia Socio-Economic Household Survey
HH	Household
LDC	Lesser Developed Country
MAFF	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
MEF	Ministry of Economy and Finance
MoP	Ministry of Planning
NGO	Non Governmental Organization
PSU	Primary Sampling Unit
SES	Socio-Economic Status
SU	Sampling Unit
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
TAF	The Asia Foundation
WB	World Bank

All amounts are reported in US$.
$1 equals 4.000 Riel

FOREWORD

Corruption is a pervasive phenomenon destroying the development and future prospects of Cambodia. Corrupt practices are present at all levels, in various forms, and with shifting faces throughout the bureaucracy and institutions in the society. This research focuses on the impact corrupt practices have on ordinary households, where people suffer when encountering the health and education sector, law enforcers, and public registration to mention just a few corruption-prone locations.

This report is the product of the quantitative component of the Research Project entitled "Impact of and Attitudes Towards Corruption". The study surveyed 2.000 households covering all Cambodia's 24 provinces and municipalities. The survey is a follow up to an earlier survey conducted by the Center for Social Development (CSD) in 1998 called "The National Survey on Public Attitudes Towards Corruption" and uses comparative research from Thailand and Indonesia.

This survey is the first nationwide representative study on attitudes, perceptions, and impact of corruption on Cambodian households. The survey differs from other studies by using expenditure instead of income, providing a more honest picture of the impact of corruption on households cross-national. The survey shows that it is the city-dwellers and richer citizens who pay a larger percentage of their expenditure on bribes, while the data indicate that the poor do not have access to the most basic services, implying a very serious indirect consequence for them.

Corruption is a special topic for research whereby improved advanced methods are highly necessary. With this survey, CSD offers a highly developed design and welcomes future comparative studies so continual research on this very important topic can be carried on.

The results and findings of this quantitative component show that drastic and comprehensive measures to curb and counter corruption are urgently required at all levels of society. CSD wish that the Royal Government of Cambodia, donor agencies, NGO's, and civil society groups will use this study widely so that real development and progress can be achieved for the benefit of all citizens.

Chea Vannath
President

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