



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
Nation Religion King

**Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Cambodia
to the United Nations and other International
Organizations in Geneva**

No: 2026/06/734

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Cambodia to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and, with reference to Special Rapporteurs' Joint Communication Ref: AL KHM 1/2026 dated 23 April 2026, has the honour to transmit herewith the attached letter of His Excellency Sovann KE, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Cambodia to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva.

The Permanent Mission would greatly appreciate it if the OHCHR could convey the said letter to its highest destination.

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Cambodia to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.



Geneva, 22 June 2026

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
Geneva



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**Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Cambodia
to the United Nations and other International
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No: 2026/06/733

Geneva, 22 June 2026

Dear Special Rapporteurs and Chair-Rapporteur,

I acknowledge the receipt of your Joint Communication Ref. AL KHM 1/2026 dated 23 April 2026 extended to H.E. Mr. PRAK Sokhonn, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia, regarding your concern on the alleged large-scale internal displacement of civilians, destruction of homes and livelihoods, and the precarious humanitarian and human rights situation of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the context of the 2025 Cambodia-Thailand border conflict.

Ms. Paula Gaviria

Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons

Ms. Farida Shaheed

Special Rapporteur on the right to education

Mr. Morris Tidball-Binz

Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions

Ms. Sofía Monsalve Suárez

Special Rapporteur on the right to food

Ms. Tlaleng Mofokeng

Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health

Mr. Koldo Casla

Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context

Ms. Reem Alsalem

Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences

Mr. Pedro Arrojo-Agudo

Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation

Ms. Claudia Flores

Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group on discrimination against women and girls

United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner

Geneva

The Royal Government of Cambodia appreciates receiving this communication prior to its publication on the OHCHR website or presentation before the Human Rights Council. We value this opportunity for constructive engagement, which helps avoid premature conclusions based on partial information and supports a transparent exchange of facts and perspectives. This process strengthens mutual understanding, trust, and effective cooperation.

In this spirit, Cambodia wishes to clarify that several elements in the summary provided in the Joint Communication do not fully reflect the situation on the ground. For an accurate understanding, we respectfully provide the following corrections and information in direct response to the issues raised.

1. Clarification of the situation leading to the conflict:

- **Initiation and Escalation of the Conflict:** The current situation arises from escalating hostilities initiated by Thai armed forces. The first escalation occurred on 28 May 2025, when Thai troops opened fire on a Cambodian military trench, killing a Cambodian soldier, Mr. Suon Raon. Further clashes between 24 and 28 July 2025 forced more than 180,000 Cambodian civilians to flee their homes.
- **Thai Expansion into Non-Disputed Cambodian Territory:** The Thai side expanded the scope of the conflict into a non-disputed area within Banteay Meanchey Province. On 12–13 August 2025, Thai military forces placed vehicle tires and erected barbed-wire fences around the homes of 12 Cambodian households and hundreds of land parcels located in Chokchey Village and Prey Chan Village, Ou Bei Choan Commune, Ou Chrov District, claiming that these areas were situated within Thai territory. In reality, however, those areas are located within the sovereign territory of Cambodia and have been administered by Cambodian authorities in an open, peaceful, continuous, and uncontested manner for several decades.
- **Unlawful Attacks and Harm to Civilians:** The Thai military attacked across the entire land border and has intruded deeply into the territorial integrity of the Kingdom of Cambodia. It has used unlawful methods of warfare with non-discriminatory, disproportionate, and inhumane attacks. These actions by the Thai armed forces have caused deaths, injuries, and severe psychological impacts on the civilian population, as well as the destruction of homes, land, agricultural fields, and socio-economic infrastructure. Thailand's use of intimidation tactics, including nighttime broadcasting of threatening messages and high-intensity acoustic broadcasts, caused fear, psychological distress

and sleep disturbances, and had particularly adverse effects on the elderly, persons with chronic illnesses, and young children, whose education was disrupted due to insufficient sleep.

- **Destruction of Cultural Heritage:** The Thai military incursion has resulted in damage to Cambodian temple and cultural heritage. Preah Vihear Temple, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and symbol of Khmer national cultural identity, has been attacked by 155 mm artillery shells and MK-84 bombs dropped from Thai F-16 aircraft. This has resulted in damage to more than 140 temple structures, all five gopuras, and the surrounding temple area, causing severe destruction that may pose a risk to the structural integrity of the entire temple complex. Additionally, Ta Krabei Temple, a sacred religious site and cultural heritage of the Cambodian people, was completely destroyed by bombing on 10 December 2025, resulting in the temple structure collapsing almost entirely to ground level.
- **Serious Human Rights Violations:** A group of Thai black-clad soldiers committed brutal, savage, and inhumane acts against 13 Cambodian migrant workers, including beating, kicking, extortion, and threatening to seize their property. Seven of these soldiers also committed a degrading and vile act [REDACTED] against one Cambodian female worker on 15 November 2025. This is an act that is hateful, inhumane, barbaric and is unacceptable. These acts constitute a crime and a serious violation of human rights, women's rights, and migrant workers' rights under national laws and international legal instruments, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), those of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).
- **Continued Thai Control Preventing Return of IDPs:** The unprovoked acts of aggression by Thailand in both July and December 2025 resulted in significant humanitarian consequences, in which more than 649,000 civilians were displaced. As of early April 2026, 34,439 individuals, including 11,449 children, remain in IDP camps in Cambodia. Some IDPs remain unable to return as their homes are blocked by barbed wires and containers located in areas reportedly under the unlawful control of Thai forces, while others cannot return because their homes have been completely destroyed or severely damaged during the conflict.
- **Cambodia's Ongoing Humanitarian and Reconstruction Efforts:** The Government is providing repair and reconstruction support for damaged homes, and has handed over shelters to displaced families. Cambodia continues humanitarian assistance despite constraints caused by Thailand's continued occupation of Cambodian territory.

2. Efforts to Support Internally Displaced Persons:

Cambodia has undertaken a comprehensive, coordinated response to support IDPs following the armed conflict with Thailand. This response covers shelter, food, healthcare, water and sanitation, protection services for vulnerable groups, and planning for safe, voluntary, and dignified return.

a) Coordinated National Mechanism for IDP Support

To ensure an organized and timely response, the government established the *“Ad hoc Working Group on Livelihoods and Infrastructure Restoration from the Cambodia–Thailand Border Conflict”* on 22 October 2025 as an inter-ministerial mechanism to manage and accelerate the restoration of livelihoods, housing, and basic public infrastructure in affected areas.

The Working Group conducts assessments of livelihood and infrastructure damage, coordinates with line ministries and provincial authorities on social assistance and restoration projects, identifies required budgets and resources, mobilizes support from development partners, and prepares monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to ensure effective restoration. Its establishment aligns with the National Social Protection Policy Framework 2024–2035 and the *Guideline on the Shock Responsive Social Protection Framework*, ensuring that interventions are systemic, predictable, effective and timely, and grounded in the principle of “leave no one behind.” This mechanism forms a central pillar of Cambodia’s coordinated approach to supporting IDPs and affected communities.

b) Emergency Evacuation, Shelter, and Basic Assistance:

At the onset of the crisis, the Royal Government, through the National Disaster Management Committee and provincial authorities, coordinated the safe evacuation of affected populations and ensured the provision of proper temporary shelters, food supplies, and essential services such as health and education. Temporary housing was constructed for displaced households unable to return home, while humanitarian partners, including the Cambodian Red Cross (CRC), supported evacuation, registration, temporary shelter management, and the distribution of food and non-food items. CRC also provided WASH support, first aid, maternal and child assistance, psychosocial support, and mine/UXO risk awareness, working closely with national and provincial authorities and the ICRC.

c) Cash Transfer Programs and Continuity of Social Protection

The royal government has launched three main cash transfer social protection programs for affected households as follows:

- Cash Transfer Program for Returning Households' Livelihood: providing a one-off cash transfer to all households that have already returned to their community. The program started cash disbursement in early March 2026, and currently, it continues to identify the eligible households for proving the benefits. As estimated, there are more than 130,000 households eligible for the program.
- Cash Transfer Program for Returning Households with Damaged Houses: providing a one-off cash transfer to households with damaged houses for repair and rebuilding according to the 3 levels of severity (minor, moderate, and major/destroyed). The program started cash disbursement in late February 2026. There are more than 1,200 households benefiting from the program so far. There could be more targeted households receiving benefits from this program as provincial administration continues to evaluate the damage. Please note that this program is for Internally Displaced households who live in the areas where they are able/allowed to go back (considered safe to return) and they have returned only.
- Cash Transfer Program for Displaced Households' livelihoods: In addition to establishing temporary housing, the government provides monthly cash transfer to all households that remained displaced. The program started cash disbursement in early March 2026. This program is to be implemented for 12 months and will be reassessed for the continuation. There are nearly 5,000 households benefiting from the program.

Besides the cash transfer program, the Royal Government ensured the continuation of routine social assistance programs to safeguard income security during displacement. Equity Card validity was extended in all affected provinces to prevent poor households from losing access to benefits. Conditionality under the Family Package, such as "Cash Transfer Program for Pregnant women and children under two years old" and the "Scholarship Program for Student in Primary and Secondary School", were temporarily waived. Additionally, with school closure, the government temporarily adjusted the implementation modality of the "Home-Grown School Feeding Program" from providing hot meals in school for young children to providing ration of

basic foods for cooking at home instead, helping to address food security issues, especial among the poor and vulnerable household.

These programs form a core component of Cambodia's early recovery efforts, focusing on restoring livelihoods and supporting both returning and displaced households.

d) Comprehensive Health Response and Protection of Vulnerable Groups

The Ministry of Health activated emergency response mechanisms and deployed emergency medical teams—including doctors, nurses, midwives, laboratory staff, and public health officers—to evacuation sites and temporary shelters. These teams provided emergency first aid, trauma care, treatment for acute illnesses, referrals for severe cases, and continuous health monitoring. Mobile medical teams ensured access for IDPs in remote locations.

Essential health services were maintained throughout the displacement period, including maternal and newborn care, antenatal and postnatal services, routine immunization, chronic disease management, reproductive health services, and emergency obstetric and neonatal care. Disease surveillance was strengthened to prevent outbreaks of respiratory infections, diarrheal diseases, dengue, COVID-19, and other communicable diseases.

Special attention was given to children, pregnant and lactating women, older persons, persons with disabilities, and social individuals with chronic illnesses, with targeted outreach to ensure access to medication, mobility assistance, and referral services. Mental health and psychosocial support—including psychological first aid and counseling—was provided to individuals experiencing distress, trauma, or anxiety.

e) Water, Sanitation, Hygiene (WASH) and Environmental Health

The Ministry of Health, in collaboration with local authorities and partners, monitored the quality and safety of drinking water, promoted safe food handling and hygiene practices, supported the installation and maintenance of temporary sanitation facilities, and conducted hygiene promotion and health education activities. Environmental health teams regularly inspected shelter conditions to minimize risks of waterborne and communicable diseases. CRC complemented these efforts through WASH promotion and distribution of hygiene supplies.

3. Measures Taken and Communication with Affected Communities

The Royal Government of Cambodia is conducting ongoing assessments of lost and damaged housing, land, property, and public infrastructure through the “Ad hoc Working Group on Livelihoods and Infrastructure Restoration from the Cambodia-Thailand Border Conflict”, established on 22 October 2025. Provincial authorities compile damage information using existing sub-national mechanisms, supported by field verification from national officials. These assessments continue as additional areas become accessible and safe.

To support affected households, the Government has already launched targeted compensation and recovery measures. These include the Cash Transfer Program for Returning Households with Damaged Houses, which provides a one-off transfer for repair and reconstruction based on three levels of severity, with disbursement beginning in late February 2026. Complementary livelihood support is provided through cash transfer programs for returning households and for displaced households residing in temporary shelters.

Public infrastructure restoration is being carried out in areas deemed safe for return, with remaining areas to be addressed once conditions permit. Local authorities have been informing affected communities of the availability of these programs and the procedures for identifying eligible households. As assessments progress, authorities continue to update communities on the status of their applications and the rollout of assistance.

4. Documentation Obstacles for IDPs and Government Measures:

Internally displaced persons faced significant barriers in securing or renewing documentation proving their tenure rights during the armed clashes. Because evacuations were carried out urgently, many IDPs were unable to bring with them documents proving ownership of their land and houses, while others saw these documents lost or destroyed during artillery shelling or due to the unlawful occupation of their property by Thai soldiers. In some cases, personal identification documents were also lost or damaged. As a result, certain IDPs now face difficulties in proving their identity and establishing ownership of their homes and land. These documentation gaps create challenges for competent authorities in examining and verifying claims, which in turn may affect timely access to rehabilitation, resettlement, and reconstruction programmes, including temporary housing support.

To address these barriers in the short term, the Royal Government has put in place practical administrative measures to facilitate verification and reissuance of documents.

IDPs may undergo identity verification and confirmation of land and housing ownership through village, commune, and district administrations, which maintain population records, as well as through commune and district police officers responsible for residence and family books.

For land and housing claims, cadastral officials are responsible for land measurement, verification of land history, and the issuance or reissuance of land ownership titles. Competent authorities are able to reissue identification documents upon request, drawing on archived historical records and digital information systems. IDPs seeking reissued land titles may provide available supporting documents such as national identity cards, birth certificates, civil registration documents, land history certification letters, and other relevant records.

These short-term measures ensure that displaced households can re-establish their legal identity and property documentation, thereby enabling access to recovery and reconstruction programmes while longer-term solutions are developed.

5. *Early Recovery Efforts*

As the situation transitioned into early recovery, the Royal Government—supported by the Ad hoc Working Group—continued to assess damages and restore critical infrastructure, prioritizing schools, public health facilities, roads, bridges, clean water systems, and power grids in areas deemed safe for return. The Cambodia Food Reserve System distributed seeds to support agricultural recovery, while temporary housing and essential services were provided to households unable to return.

De-mining activities were coordinated to ensure safe return and resettlement. The Ministry of Health continues to assess public health conditions in affected communities to support the safe, voluntary, and dignified return of displaced populations, including through the rehabilitation of damaged health facilities, re-establishment of routine services, continued disease surveillance, and long-term psychosocial and rehabilitation support.

6. *Ceasefire Agreements and Remaining Obstacles*

Cambodia and Thailand have reached ceasefire agreements during the 2025–2026 hostilities. The first was signed on **28 July 2025**, and a second ceasefire was agreed on **27 December 2025**, in which both sides committed to protecting civilians and supporting the safe return of displaced persons. However, Thai forces continue to occupy Cambodian territory, block access to homes and land with barbed wire and containers, and maintain a military presence that prevents civilians from returning. Because of this ongoing occupation, it has not been possible to operationalize the arrangements such as ensuring freedom of movement, access to land, safety guarantees for IDPs, or any bilateral reparations for destroyed housing and civilian infrastructure.

7. Monitoring and Protection Measures in IDP Sites

The Royal Government of Cambodia has established a series of mechanisms to monitor, investigate, and prevent human rights violations within displacement centers, with particular attention to the needs of women, girls, children, and other persons in vulnerable situations.

At each displacement site, all IDPs are registered and recorded to ensure accurate identity verification and effective management of residents. Each center has an established management team and security team responsible for maintaining registration records, ensuring security and public order, overseeing environmental sanitation, welfare services, education, food supplies, and clean water provision, and coordinating responses to urgent issues and immediate needs.

These center-level mechanisms are reinforced by district- and provincial-level authorities, which maintain direct communication with management teams and conduct inspections to ensure protection, security, and emergency interventions when required. IDPs may immediately report and file complaints with camp management or the nearest competent authorities, ensuring that any concerns are addressed without delay. It should be noted that security and public order within the displacement centers are being effectively managed, and no incidents of human rights violations or abuse against vulnerable persons have been observed.

To address the specific needs of women, girls, children, and other vulnerable groups, accommodation facilities are arranged separately for each family, and sanitary facilities are separated for women and men to prevent potential risks and unforeseen incidents.

8. Investigation of Civilian death during hostilities:

The Royal Government of Cambodia has taken steps to investigate the deaths of civilians resulting from machine-gun fire, artillery shelling, and aerial bombardment during the hostilities. Specialized police authorities have conducted forensic examinations in accordance with established procedures and have compiled case files containing information and evidence related to these fatalities. These measures ensure that each death is formally recorded, medically examined, and documented as part of the investigative process. The compiled case files form the basis for further legal and accountability procedures in line with national law and Cambodia's obligations to ensure that all civilian deaths in the context of hostilities are subject to proper examination.

In conclusion, I sincerely hope that the abovementioned clarifications will be taken into serious consideration in your future deliberations and public communications. I would also like to reaffirm the Royal Government of Cambodia's continued commitment to principled, constructive and transparent engagement with the United Nations Special Procedures and all relevant international human rights mechanisms operating under the auspices of the Human Rights Council.

Please accept, Madam/Sir Special Rapporteurs and Chair Rapporteur, the assurances of my high consideration.



Sovann Ke
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
of the Kingdom of Cambodia to the United Nations Office
and other International Organizations in Geneva