There was considerable progress in primary school attendance in Cambodia from 2000 to 2005, with growth from 64\% to 82\% (net) and from 99\% to 127\% (gross).

- $82 \%$ of children in primary school age 6-11 attend primary school at the appropriate age with $81 \%$ for male and $83 \%$ for female.
- Students over or under the official primary school age range make up 45\% of the primary school age population.
- There is no significant gender disparity observed in school attendance in 2005.


Source: Demographic and Health Survey

The net attendance ratio (NAR) is the percentage of the official primary school-age population that attends primary school. The gross attendance ratio (GAR) is the total number of students attending primary school - regardless of age - expressed as a percentage of the official primary school-age population. The primary NAR does not capture those students who have completed primary school and advanced to secondary school at an earlier age than the official age.

## Primary School Net Attendance Rate in Urban and Rural Areas, Cambodia

Children in rural areas are as likely to attend school as children in urban areas.

- In urban areas, $82 \%$ of children of primary school age attend school, compared to $82 \%$ in rural areas.
- There is moderate gender disparity in favor or male in both urban and rural areas.

Primary School Net Attendance Rate in Urban and Rural Areas


Source: Demographic and Health Survey 2005

## Primary School Net Attendance Rate by Region, Cambodia

There are major regional disparities in primary school attendance in Cambodia.

- Primary net attendance is highest in the Kampot \& Krong Kep region (90\%); attendance is lowest in the Mondol Kiri \& Rattanak Kiri region (30\%).
- In Mondol Kiri \& Rattanak Kiri, less than a third of children attend schools at the appropriate age.
- Gender disparity is lowest in the Preah Vihear \& Steung Treng region and highest in the Otdar Mean Chey region.



Source: Demographic and Health Survey 2005

Secondary School Net and Gross Attendance Rates, Cambodia
Secondary school attendance rate is significantly lower than primary attendance rate. However, it almost doubled from 2000 to 2005.

- $27 \%$ of youth in secondary school age 12-17 attend secondary school at the appropriate age with $28 \%$ for males and 25\% for females.
- Students over or under the official secondary school age range make up 8\% of the secondary school age population.


- Males are more likely to attend secondary school than females but the gap has been closing from 2000 to 2005.

Source: Demographic and Health Survey
Secondary School Net Attendance Rate in Urban and Rural Areas, Cambodia
There are close to twice more youth attending secondary school in urban as in rural areas.

- In urban areas, $43 \%$ of children of secondary school age attend school, compared to $24 \%$ in rural areas.
- No significant gender disparity is observed in either urban and rural areas.



## Secondary School Net Attendance Rate by Region, Cambodia

- Secondary net attendance is highest in the Phnom Penh region (45\%); attendance is lowest in the Mondol Kiri \& Rattanak Kiri region (8\%).
- Gender disparity is highest in the Phnom Penh region and lowest in the Preah Vihear \& Steung Treng region.



Source: Demographic and Health Survey 2005


- For females, the highest attendance rate is at ages 9-10 (94\%) and for males at age 10 (95\%).
- Beyond age 10, school attendance rate gradually declines for both genders to below $50 \%$ by age 17.

Over-Age, Under-Age, and On-Time Students in Primary School, Cambodia
Only about 15\% of primary school students are in the appropriate GRADE for their age; the on-time proportion declines in the higher grades.


- About $80 \%$ of the male primary school students and 76\% of the female students are over-age by grade.
- About 6\% of the male primary school students and 7\% of the female students are under-age by grade.
- In this country, a significant portion of children enter primary school at an older age than the official age.

The Implications of Over-Age/Under-Age Students
For the system: Both late entry into primary school and grade repetition can cause children to be over-age for their grade. Early entry in primary school can be a cause of underage attendance.
In the classroom: Large numbers of over-age and/or under-age students present a challenge for teachers who must teach a more diverse group with differing levels of maturity and school preparedness.

## Repetition, Dropout, and Promotion Rates by Grade, Cambodia

- Repetition rate is highest in grade 1 of primary school (25\%) and lowest in grade 1 of secondary school (1\%).
- Dropout rate is highest in grade 5 of secondary school (7\%) and lowest in grade 1 of primary school (0\%).

- Almost four-fifths of pupils complete primary school in 2005. Males were more likely to complete than females in 2000 but females were more likely to complete in 2005.

- The probability of completing primary school is higher in urban than rural areas, and increases with the relative wealth of the student's household.


Source: Demographic and Health Survey 2005
Source: Demographic and Health Survey 2005
The primary school completion rate is the total number of non-repeating students attending the last grade of primary school - regardless of age - expressed as a percentage of the official last grade of primary school-age population. This indicator doesn't capture students who have completed primary school and advanced to secondary school at an earlier age than official school age, which may be reflected in higher wealth quintiles in some countries with lower completion rates than those in lower wealth quintiles.

## Educational Attainment, Cambodia

Men are better educated than women across older age groups, and the gender gap closes among 15-19 year olds.

- $95 \%$ of men and $92 \%$ of women who are 15-19 years old have attended school.
- Among the population aged 20-24 years old, $12 \%$ of men and $7 \%$ of women have completed secondary or higher.
- Men and women combined, the cohort that entered school 15 years ago (20-24 year olds) is more likely to have completed secondary school or higher than the age cohort that entered school 25 years ago (3034 year olds).


Female Literacy Rate (age 15-24)


- $88 \%$ of women age $15-24$ in urban areas can read, compared to $76 \%$ in rural areas.

- The percentage of women who can read is $62 \%$ among women age 45-49 and $85 \%$ among women age 15-19.
- $96 \%$ of women who completed grade 5 can read and literacy rate increases with level of education completed.

