According to the National Policy on Youth Development (2011), youth is defined as between 15-30 years in Cambodia.

**DEFINITION OF YOUTH**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Marriageable Age</th>
<th>Candidacy Age</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Opposite Sex</strong></td>
<td><strong>Same Sex</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Without Parental Consent</td>
<td>With Parental Consent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Criminal Responsibility**

Minimum Age

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Majority Age</th>
<th>Voting Age</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Majority Age</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voting Age</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE**

- **Net Enrolment Rates**
  - Secondary School: 38.15%
  - Male: 39.39%
  - Female: 36.45%
  - Year: 2008
  - Source: UNESCO

- **Literacy Rates**
  - Male: 88.36%
  - Female: 85.87%
  - Year: 2009
  - Source: UNESCO

- **Youth Development**
  - Year: 2013
  - Source: Commonwealth Youth Programme
  - Value: 0.67

- **Tobacco Use**
  - Male: 5.1%
  - Female: 7.2%
  - Year: 2009
  - Source: WHO

- **Prevalence of HIV**
  - Male: 0.2%
  - Female: 0.2%
  - Year: 2012
  - Source: UNAIDS

**YOUTH POLICY & LEGISLATION**

According to Innovations in Civic Participation – Cambodia, the National Policy on Youth Development (2011) began in 2004, with drafts completed in 2006 and 2008. According to the UN, an accompanying National Youth Action Plan has also been developed. The National Policy on Youth Development (2011) focuses on 12 strategic areas:

1. Legal frameworks and mechanisms;
2. Education, training and capacity-building;
3. Education, care and provision of health service;
4. Entrepreneurship and labor market;
5. Protection of social security, peace and justice;
6. Youth’s participation;
7. Relaxation, leisure, and sports;
8. Arts and culture;
9. Awareness of environment, agriculture, tourism and business;
10. Volunteers;
11. Gender;
12. Drugs use and increase rehabilitation.

**Is there a national youth policy?**

Yes

Cambodia has a policy for youth development. A UN situation analysis from 2009 exists.
**YOUTH & PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS**

The Youth Department within the Ministry of Education, Youth & Sports (MoEYS) has responsibility for youth affairs and the development of the National Policy on Youth Development (2011). The National Council for Youth Development is responsible for “coordinating, monitoring, evaluating and assisting the government in the process of developing youth.” According to The Phnom Penh Post in August 2011, the Council will “promote the youth programme into national budgeting, within various line ministries, public institutions and local authorities.”

**YOUTH & REPRESENTATION**

The Youth Council of Cambodia is an independent, apolitical organisation “formed as a coalition of five major student and youth organizations”. It was established to “advocate for peaceful democratic reform and promote voter and civic education among Cambodian youth and students.” Its mission is to “foster a greater participation of youth in development and provide a voice for young Cambodians” and through trainings and programmes has become “a voice for students advocating non-violent democratic change in Cambodia.”

**YOUTH BUDGET & SPENDING**

The Global Post reports that the 2014 Cambodia budget included KHR 1,337 million (USD 335 million) on education. The full Budget Law 2013 (2012) is available in Khmer.

According to the World Bank, Cambodia spent 12.39% of its government expenditure on education provision in 2007, and 2.60% of its GDP in 2010.

**Is there a governmental authority (ministry, department or office) that is primarily responsible for youth?**

Yes

**Does the country have national and/or regional youth council(s)?**

Yes

**What is the budget allocated to the governmental authority (ministry, department or office) that is primarily responsible for youth?**

Unknown

**Total Expenditure on Education as a Percentage of Government Spending and GDP**

![Graph showing the total expenditure on education as a percentage of government spending and GDP](http://www.youthpolicy.org/library/cambodia)

**Footnotes**

1) A Human Development Index (HDI) value of zero means low human development, and a value of 1 means very high human development. HDI is a composite index measuring three dimensions: a long and healthy life, knowledge and a decent standard of living. (UNDP)

2) An Income Gini coefficient of zero means absolute equality, and a coefficient of 100 means absolute inequality. Note: figures multiplied by 100 for OECD data. (World Bank/OECD)

3) A Corruption Perception Index (CPI) value of zero means that a country is perceived as highly corrupt, and a value of 100 means it is perceived as very clean. (Transparency International)

4) A Press Freedom Index (PFI) value of zero means the highest degree of freedom that journalists, news organisations and netizens enjoy, and a value of 100 means it is the lowest. (Reporters Without Borders)

5) A Youth Development Index (YDI) value of zero means little or absolutely no youth development, and a value of 1 means the highest possible level of youth development attainable. YDI is a composite index measuring five domains: education, health, employment, political, and civic participation. (Commonwealth Youth Programme)