

NES Cambodia/Land and Housing Rights (LAHRIN):

Land tenure and housing rights of the poor, displaced, vulnerable, and indigenous women and men are protected and secured through the realisation of the people centred land governance.

Securing land rights is the key to end poverty and to build peaceful and just societies. However, land governance is complex and deeply rooted in unequal power relations and corruption. To those working to secure land rights, it is clear that this cannot be done in isolation. That is why the International Land Coalition (ILC) has been building and strengthening partnerships based on trust to solve land governance challenges.

National Engagement Strategies - "NES"- is a multi-stakeholder platform led by national actors that help simplify and unpack land governance complexities, using ILC's 10 commitments to people-centred land governance as their compass, while promoting the Voluntary Guidelines on Tenure (VGGT). NES Cambodia has been transformed into the Land and Housing Rights Network (LAHRIN), which is a dynamic land platform in Cambodia. The stakeholders of LAHRIN seek to engage diverse groups with varying degrees of orientation and interests on the issue of land governance in Cambodia. Given the complexity and often politically sensitive nature of the issue of land governance in Cambodia, this is crucial to persuade like minded allies to build a momentum on the advocacy initiatives to hold the duty-bearers accountable.

Based on **collaboration and evidence-based policy dialogue**, NES Cambodia/LAHRIN set priorities and designed legitimate solutions to the most challenging land-related issues in a country. NES Cambodia/LAHRIN includes ILC members and non-members and aims at **bridging the gap** between national and local government, international agencies, and civil society, providing a space to share knowledge, joint advocacy, and complement each other to improve land governance.

NES Cambodia/LAHRIN is interested in exploring together how the strategic partners and donor institutions can engage in this partnership between civil society and government to complement and link our efforts to reach the **Sustainable Development Goals** by securing land rights.

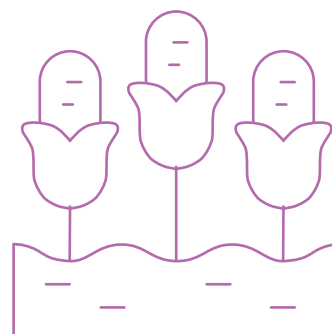


Major land governance challenges in Cambodia

Since Cambodia started adopting a free-market economy, development projects have been increasing rapidly without Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) and proper Environment Impact Assessment (EIP).

This has created land and housing conflicts, which are considered persistent problems in Cambodia. This shows that the country has been skewing towards a path of "development" in contravention of the basic needs of the people, leading to forced evictions for resettlement without a good plan.

In Cambodia, 85% out of the 16 million population depend on agriculture. Having land for cultivation is their life line, and an important source of subsistence and livelihoods. Many smallholder farmers fear they would lose the land they cultivate someday. Cambodia is also facing structural challenges to deal with land disputes. As the economy grows with a high influx of capital investment ready to benefit from speculation and structural weaknesses of the land management system, tackling the land issues is becoming even more difficult.





The **overarching objective** of NES Cambodia/LAHRIN is to promote access to land and natural resources for poor and marginalised communities by

1. prompt and effective inclusion of dispositions to reduce or stop land, forest and water grabbing in major laws and policies
2. improving the implementation of policies and laws to be more inclusive, or demonstrating changed behaviours that reflect the principles behind one or more of ILC's 10 commitments

The priorities for NES Cambodia/LAHRIN are to:

- raise awareness, advocate and continue building capacity for protecting the land rights, food sovereignty and benefits of marginalised people
- improve effectiveness of land registration process and land conflict resolution at sub-national level
- increase opportunities for dialogues between civil society organisations authorities at the local and national levels to respond to natural resource management and land issues

ILC members involved:

NGO Forum on Cambodia (NGO F), Star Kampuchea (SK), Farmer and Nature Network (FNN)

NES Cambodia/LAHRIN Steering Members:

Build Community Voice (BCV, local NGO), Oxfam (international NGO), Community Legal Education Center (CLEC- local NGO), Rachana Satrey (RS-local NGO), Cambodian Center for Human Rights (CCHR-local NGO), Cambodian Center for Humanity and Self-Reliant (CCHRS- local NGO), ActionAid Cambodia (AAC- international NGO), and Urban Poor Women Development (UPWD – local NGO)

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