



## Roadmap (2022-2027)

### Civil Society Follow-up on the CRC Concluding Observations for Cambodia

Version 1 (30 November 2022)

#### I. Background

The Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC Committee) conducted the dialogue with the Cambodian state delegation on 5-6 May 2022 in the Committee’s [90<sup>th</sup> Session](#) ([day 1](#) and [day 2](#) recordings and [summary](#)). Following this review, the Committee distributed its **Concluding Observations** (COBs) in June 2022 ([official English version](#) and [unofficial Khmer translation](#)), providing various recommendations to the Cambodian government to better implement the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

As a part of the follow-up efforts, the Child Rights Coalition Cambodia (CRC-Cambodia) and the Child Justice Network (CJN) developed a [summary of the COBs](#), providing a functional overview of the diversity of recommendations provided by the CRC Committee. Thematic summary sheets have also been developed, such as the [child justice summary sheet](#) providing a summary of the recommendations related to the child justice system and access to justice for children.

A number of important discussions were held in the months following the distribution of the COBs, including:

<b>1</b>	<p><b>Discussion Forum on the Implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in Cambodia</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Date:</b> Friday, 17 June 2022</li> <li>• <b>Organized by:</b> Cambodia National Council for Children (CNCC)</li> <li>• <b>Supported by:</b> Plan International</li> <li>• <b>Chaired by:</b> H.E. Chou Bun Eng (Secretary of State, Ministry of Interior (Mol))</li> <li>• <b>Purpose:</b> To raise awareness on the implementation of the CRC and to explain the recommendations of the Committee specified in the COBs</li> <li>• <b>Attended by:</b> Child and Youth-Led Networks (CYLNs), sub-national administrations, and officials of ministries and provincial departments</li> </ul>	<b>2</b>	<p><b>Debrief Meeting for Cambodian CSOs with CRC Committee Members</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Date:</b> Tuesday, 19 July 2022</li> <li>• <b>Organized by:</b> CRC-Cambodia and CJN</li> <li>• <b>Speakers:</b> Ms. Mikiko Otani (Chair, CRC Committee), Ms. Fanny Chappuis (Child Rights Connect), Ms. Roueida El Hage (Country Representative, OHCHR Cambodia), and Ms. Foroogh Foyouzat (Representative, UNICEF Cambodia), among others</li> <li>• <b>Purpose:</b> To enable Cambodian CSOs to directly engage with the CRC Committee members, seek clarifications on the COBs, and better understand the follow-up process</li> <li>• <b>Attended by:</b> Representatives of 27 organizations, including CSOs, UNICEF, and OHCHR</li> <li>• <a href="#">Download summary record</a> (contains helpful resources, important guidance, and notable updates and background information)</li> </ul>
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<p><b>3 Roundtable Discussion on the Recommendations of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Date:</b> Thursday, 21 July 2022</li> <li>• <b>Organized by:</b> CNCC; Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans, and Youth Rehabilitation (MoSVY); and UNICEF</li> <li>• <b>Chaired by:</b> H.E. Khiev Bory (Secretary of State, MoSVY), H.E. Chou Bun Eng, and Ms. Foroogh Foyouzat</li> <li>• <b>Purpose:</b> To disseminate the COBs (including the Khmer version) and to discuss how to integrate the CRC recommendations into policies, plans, and relevant regulations</li> <li>• <b>Attended by:</b> More than 150 participants from relevant ministries (particularly MoSVY; Mol; Ministry of Justice; Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports; Ministry of Women’s Affairs; Ministry of Health; and Ministry of Economy and Finance), sub-national administrations, development partners, CSOs, and children and youth</li> <li>• <a href="#">Read summary</a></li> </ul>	<p><b>4 Workshop on Raising Awareness on the Concluding Observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Date:</b> Sunday, 31 July 2022</li> <li>• <b>Organized by:</b> Cambodia Children and Young People Movement for Child Rights (CCYMCR)</li> <li>• <b>Supported by:</b> Save the Children</li> <li>• <b>Chaired by:</b> H.E. Oum Sophannara and H.E. Sambath Sokunthea (Deputy Secretary-General, CNCC), with CCYMCR</li> <li>• <b>Purpose:</b> To enhance the understanding of children and youth on the recommendations of the CRC Committee and to enable them to discuss priorities in the implementation of the recommendations</li> <li>• <b>Attended by:</b> Child and youth representatives of CCYMCR, Child Advocate Network (CAN), and Adolescent and Youth Reference Group (AYRG)</li> </ul>
<p><b>5 Consultation Meeting Between CNCC and CRC-Cambodia on the CRC Concluding Observations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Date:</b> Monday, 29 August 2022</li> <li>• <b>Organized and attended by:</b> CNCC and CRC-Cambodia</li> <li>• <b>Chaired by:</b> H.E. Kim Sovandy (Secretary-General, CNCC) and Mr. Yan Lay (Executive Director, CRC-Cambodia)</li> <li>• <b>Purpose:</b> To discuss general plans and coordination for follow-up on the COBs by the government (led by CNCC) and the civil society (led by CRC-Cambodia), including dissemination, implementation, and monitoring</li> </ul>	<p><b>6 CRC Concluding Observations Dissemination and Follow-up Consultation Workshop</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Date:</b> Friday, 28 October 2022</li> <li>• <b>Organized by:</b> CRC-Cambodia and CNCC</li> <li>• <b>Supported by:</b> Save the Children</li> <li>• <b>Chaired by:</b> H.E. Bou Sophoan (Deputy Secretary-General, CNCC) and Mr. Yan Lay, with CRC-Cambodia Board of Directors and Save the Children</li> <li>• <b>Purpose:</b> To discuss the government’s plans for follow-up, the roadmap for civil society follow-up, and the recommendations matrix for prioritization and action</li> <li>• <b>Attended by:</b> CRC-Cambodia members and secretariat, CNCC, CYLNs, other CSO partners, and key UN partners</li> <li>• <a href="#">Download concept note</a></li> </ul>

In order to effectively implement the recommendations of the COBs, the Royal Government of Cambodia issued **Circular No. 06 SR on Implementation of the Recommendations of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child** on 20 September 2022 ([English](#) and [Khmer](#)), serving as the basis for the CNCC and relevant line ministries to take action towards implementing the COBs. The CNCC is conducting technical meetings to divide the responsibilities among the ministries, and annual reviews are expected to be conducted on the implementation progress.

The next periodic report by the Cambodian government to the CRC Committee is **due in November 2027**, providing 5 years for the follow-up stage. This duration might be extended to 8 years based on the changes in the periodic review cycle by all Human Rights Treaty Bodies, which is to be confirmed.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> For more information, see [here](#) (pages 7-8).

## II. Roadmap

In order to effectively coordinate the civil society follow-up on the COBs, the CRC-Cambodia developed this tentative 5-year roadmap (2022-2027) with inputs from its members and partners, which will be a living document to be updated over the years (contact the CRC-Cambodia for the latest version).

It comprises of four main pillars divided into coordination of the civil society, collaboration with the government, dissemination and awareness-raising, and child participation. A core working group has been established to coordinate these efforts, led by the CRC-Cambodia secretariat and joined by representatives from each of the five Thematic Working Groups (TWGs) of the coalition, along with other partners. A separate internal list has also been prepared of focal points from each interested organization to collaborate in the follow-up process.

An overview of the roadmap's four pillars is as follows:

Pillar 1	Pillar 2	Pillar 3	Pillar 4
<b>Civil society follow-up coordination</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analysis and synthesis of the COBs (mapping and prioritizing)</li> <li>• Action planning (indicators and action/advocacy plan)</li> <li>• Monitoring</li> <li>• Submission to the CRC Committee</li> <li>• Regional and international exchange</li> </ul>	<b>Collaboration with government</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordination about follow-up plans, public budgeting process, and others</li> <li>• Reviews and submission to the CRC Committee</li> <li>• Provision of support (data, research, technical input, good practices, and service delivery)</li> <li>• Regional exchange</li> </ul>	<b>Dissemination and awareness-raising</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workshops with coalition members, CYLNs, and partners</li> <li>• Public awareness-raising and advocacy (including key messages infographics)</li> <li>• Development and dissemination of child-friendly version of the COBs</li> </ul>	<b>Child participation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing consultations</li> <li>• Capacity-building</li> <li>• Support for participation in public discourse</li> <li>• Submission to the CRC Committee (children's report)</li> <li>• Regional exchange</li> </ul>

A detailed list of the activities under each of the four pillars is as follows:

Pillar 1. Civil society follow-up coordination		
Category	Activity	Timeframe
Coordination	1.1. Coordinate with CRC-Cambodia members and TWGs, the Cambodian Coalition Network, other child rights CSOs, CYLNs, and main UN agencies (UNICEF and OHCHR)	2022 - 2027
Analysis and synthesis of the COBs	1.2. Map the recommendations in relation to the previous CRC COBs and the recommendations of other human rights mechanisms, <sup>2</sup> and consider how the CRC recommendations can in turn be used to inform the review processes of other human rights mechanisms as a cross-sectoral matter <sup>3</sup>	October 2022

<sup>2</sup> The latest COBs include those by the Human Rights Committee (CCPR) in May 2022, Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) in January 2020, and Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in November 2019. The latest Universal Periodic Review (UPR) recommendations were officially distributed in April 2019, and the latest recommendations by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia were distributed in August 2022.

<sup>3</sup> See footnote 6 below.

	1.3. Identify if any recommendations are inaccurate or outdated (e.g., already implemented) <sup>4</sup>	October - December 2022
	1.4. Categorize and prioritize recommendations through a matrix, including as relevant to the five TWGs and the responsible government entities	October - December 2022
	1.5. Conduct a mapping of the initiatives already being pursued by CSOs to support the implementation of the recommendations	October - December 2022
	1.6. Identify resources that can help to implement each of the recommendations, including the CRC General Comments	October - December 2022
<b>Action planning</b>	1.7. Develop monitoring indicators for the recommendations	October 2022 - February 2023
	1.8. Develop an action and advocacy plan <sup>5</sup> for implementing the COBs with timeframes and specification of responsible organizations, while also considering the schedules of other human rights mechanisms <sup>6</sup> and joint planning with other domestic groups <sup>7</sup>	October 2022 - February 2023
<b>Monitoring</b>	1.9. Monitor the implementation of the recommendations utilizing the CRC-Cambodia's child rights monitoring database, Child Protection Information Management System (CPIMS), activities of CSO partners and CYLNs, activities of UN agencies, etc.	2022 - 2027
<b>Submission to CRC Committee</b>	1.10. Develop civil society stakeholder submissions to the CRC Committee for submission in 2028 (year TBD), including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Analysis on the obstacles that exist in Cambodia in implementing the previous recommendations of the COBs, how the government can overcome these obstacles, and whose assistance may be necessary in this process;</li> <li>➤ How the CRC Committee can raise these issues when engaging with the state party to help them better work on the implementation; and</li> <li>➤ What topics to prioritize during the dialogue with the state, given the very limited time</li> </ul>	2027
<b>Regional and international exchange</b>	1.11. Engage with the Child Rights Coalition Asia and Child Rights Connect to exchange ideas and seek inputs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Seek updates on the changes in the CRC reporting process (8-year cycles with mid-term review) and on the CRC Committee's working methods for providing substantive feedback to children who participate in the process; and</li> <li>➤ Develop a case study to showcase Cambodia's coordinated follow-up efforts as a good practice example that can facilitate learning at the regional and international levels</li> </ul>	2022 - 2027

<sup>4</sup> A comprehensive brief can be drafted and submitted to the CRC Committee for their future reference if relevant.

<sup>5</sup> Some of the tools to be used in this process are indicated [here](#) (page 3).

<sup>6</sup> The state's next periodic report to CERD is due December 2022; the state's reply to the list of issues to the Committee on Enforced Disappearances (CED) is due January 2023; the next review by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) is scheduled for 2023; the state's next periodic report to CEDAW is due November 2023; and the next national report for the UPR is due February 2024 (with the stakeholders report due September 2023). In September 2022, Cambodia also initiated the preparation for the 2nd Voluntary National Review (VNR), with a goal of submitting it to the High-Level Political Forum in June 2023. In addition, the state's initial report to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) was due in 2015, and the state's report under the list of issues prior to reporting (LoIPR) to the Committee Against Torture (CAT) was due in 2014, but they have not yet been submitted.

<sup>7</sup> Examples include the NGO Education Partnership (NEP), Child Justice Network (CJN), Child Protection Forum, Gender and Development for Cambodia (GADC), and Cooperation Committee for Cambodia (CCC).

## Pillar 2. Collaboration with the government

Category	Activity	Timeframe
<b>Coordination</b>	2.1. Coordinate with the CNCC in the plans and actions for follow-up	2022 - 2027
	2.2. Engage with the relevant line ministries, inter-ministerial working groups, the National Assembly (each relevant thematic commissions), justice system actors, and sub-national entities	2022 - 2027
	2.3. Assist discussions with the government and other partners (e.g., UN agencies) to ensure an accurate and mutual understanding of the COBs recommendations	2022 - 2027
	2.4. Engage in the process of public budgeting for child rights implementation, including capacity-building for the government and CSO partners	2022 - 2027
	2.5. Engage in the possibility and implications of implementing a National Recommendations Tracking Database, National Human Rights Institution, and National Preventive Mechanism (in coordination with OHCHR)	2022 - 2027
<b>Reviews and submission to CRC Committee</b>	2.6. Support the government to conduct an annual review of the implementation of the COBs, as a systematic and sustainable form of follow-up leading up to the next CRC review cycle (identifying the progress and gaps in implementation, promising practices and results, changes in plans, and immediate actions to be taken)	2023 - 2027
	2.7. Support a mid-term review in 2025 (year TBD)	2025
	2.8. Support civil society and child participation in the development of the next state periodic report due in 2027 (year TBD)	2026 - 2027
<b>Provision of support</b>	2.9. Collect, analyze, and share disaggregated data, including research and assessments and application of findings	2022 - 2027
	2.10. Provide technical inputs to develop policies, action plans, and programs to implement the recommendations	2022 - 2027
	2.11. Conduct research on good practices in other countries (especially in ASEAN) to help the government better implement the recommendations	2022 - 2027
	2.12. Continue providing service delivery in the communities to support the implementation of the recommendations	2022 - 2027
<b>Regional exchange</b>	2.13. Support the government to hold a regional follow-up workshop with other states in the region that have had their reviews within the past 1-2 years to discuss common recommendations, good practices, and strategies for implementation <sup>8</sup>	2023 - 2027

<sup>8</sup> For example, the CRC reviews for Cambodia, the Philippines, and Vietnam were all scheduled for 2022. This regional exchange can be conducted perhaps with the support of the regional offices of UNICEF and OHCHR. An ASEAN Dialogue on the topic of the CRC COBs was originally planned for October 2022, where the CRC-Cambodia was set to share the Cambodian experience, but it was postponed indefinitely. The CRC-Cambodia will follow up on this opportunity.

<b>Pillar 3. Dissemination and awareness-raising</b>		
<b>Category</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
<b>Dissemination and consultation workshops</b>	3.1. For CRC-Cambodia members and partners <sup>9</sup>	28 October 2022
	3.2. For CYLNs and other children and youth <sup>10</sup>	October - December 2022
<b>Public awareness-raising and advocacy</b>	3.3. Develop key messages, infographics, and other resources for public dissemination	November 2022 - January 2023
	3.4. Conduct targeted advocacy to development partners and other stakeholders of strategic importance	2022 - 2027
<b>Child-friendly version of COBs</b>	3.5. Develop and test the child-friendly version of the COBs with the CYLNs (in coordination with UNICEF, CNCC, and CSO partners)	November 2022 - January 2023
	3.6. Conduct a dissemination workshop of the child-friendly version with the CYLNs	January 2023
<b>Pillar 4. Child participation</b>		
<b>Category</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
<b>Consultations</b>	4.1. Conduct continuous consultations with the CYLNs to ensure they are guiding the follow-up efforts of the civil society	2022 - 2027
	4.2. Identify if the CYLNs may want to update their strategic or advocacy plans to integrate the recommendations of the COBs	October - December 2022
<b>Capacity-building</b>	4.3. Conduct workshops and provide mentorship to empower children to be agents of change	2022 - 2027
	4.4. Support peer-to-peer engagement by coaching children and youth with experience in the CRC process to empower and assist other children to participate	2022 - 2027
<b>Support for participation</b>	4.5. Support children to engage with the duty-bearers, especially sub-national local authorities	2022 - 2027
	4.6. Ensure the CYLNs are properly informed of all actions related to the COBs follow-up, including feedback on their participation	2022 - 2027
	4.7. Ensure there is clear visibility and recognition of the important role that children are playing in the process	2022 - 2027
<b>Submission to CRC Committee</b>	4.8. Provide support to develop the children's report for submission to the CRC Committee in 2028 (year TBD)	2027
<b>Regional exchange</b>	4.9. Consider organizing a regional follow-up workshop with children who participated in the CRC process, so that they can exchange their experiences and discuss how children can be involved in the follow-up efforts <sup>11</sup>	2023 - 2027

<sup>9</sup> See page 2 above under "CRC Concluding Observations Dissemination and Follow-up Consultation Workshop".

<sup>10</sup> This is expected to be a series of regional workshops held virtually, focusing specifically on areas that the children identify as being the most relevant. The workshops would also integrate strategic action-planning and capacity-building. A multi-year plan for additional dissemination activities may be developed in collaboration with the CYLNs.

<sup>11</sup> This can be conducted perhaps with the support of the Child Rights Coalition Asia and/or the regional offices of UNICEF and OHCHR.