



### I. Administrative Set-Up

A core group from the National Institute of Statistics (NIS) implemented activities for the 2021 ICP cycle. This core group comprised technical staff from the Department of National Accounts, mainly from the Price Statistics Office. The NIS director general led the group, with support from the national and deputy national coordinators for the ICP.

Despite the challenges posed by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, there were no changes to the organizational structure of the NIS or survey schedule for the ICP price collection. Price collectors followed safety protocols, maintaining distance from the outlets. The NIS followed the agreed-upon work plan and schedule with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for ICP price collection from the second quarter (Q2) of 2021 to Q1 2022.

### II. Use of Existing Infrastructure in Collecting International Comparison Program Data

During the 2021 ICP cycle, the central office and provincial staff responsible for the consumer price index (CPI) also collected prices for the ICP. Data collectors gathered ICP and CPI prices from the same outlets during visits. Out of the 258 CPI items, 152 overlapped with ICP items.

Existing data sources—such as the 2017 CPI and 2021 Cambodia Socio-Economic Survey— were utilized for the housing rental survey, supplemented by special housing rental price collection. Information on government compensation was collected from existing administrative sources. The NIS staff collected data on machinery and equipment and construction from experts in various companies.

### III. Survey Framework

For the 2021 ICP cycle, the household consumption survey covered the entire economy of Cambodia. The coverage included five provinces (accounting for 10 districts) and Phnom Penh City (accounting for five districts), with 1,244 outlets selected for price collection. Of these outlets, 908 were in urban areas, and 336 were in rural areas. Prices for items under food, clothing, and housing were collected monthly, while the rest of the household consumption categories were collected quarterly.

The NIS ICP team collected housing rental data from urban areas in five selected provinces. Surveys for construction and machinery and equipment covered five provinces and the capital. Compensation data for government occupations and other related indicators were collected from administrative sources.

### IV. Gross Domestic Product Expenditure Values

GDP expenditure values were estimated for most of the 155 basic headings based on the 2021 ICP classification. Some basic headings—such as narcotics and prostitution—were not estimated as they are not applicable in Cambodia. Estimates for individual consumption expenditure by nonprofit institutions serving households were only available at the aggregate level. The NIS ICP team derived estimates for basic headings under household consumption using the household consumption expenditure survey 2021 and information from the CPI. The GDP expenditure value estimate for net purchases abroad was estimated separately. The statistical discrepancy observed in the expenditure side of GDP estimates was added to the estimates of inventories with relatively weaker data sources. Total gross capital formation came from investment data and was broken down into categories using data from the establishment survey. Imports and exports data are generally available from the Imports and Exports Statistics Report from the General Department of Customs, and the balance of payments data were sourced from the Central Bank of Cambodia. While NIS was in the process of rebasing its national accounts series, the rebasing exercise could not be completed before the ICP final data submission, and data submitted for 2021 ICP cycle remained from the 2000 series.



### V. Data Validation and Quality Control

To ensure consistency in items and specifications, a thorough review of item specifications was done and compared with the price trends for similar products in the CPI. This process was done for each province in the economy. Additionally, the NIS ICP team used the worksheet provided by ADB to compare prices with data from the 2017 ICP price survey. The ICP Asia Pacific Software Suite (ICP APSS) data validation feature enabled the NCI ICP team to address queries during workshops effectively. Regional validation workshops organized by ADB ensured price consistency across provinces within the economy.

### VI. International Comparison Program Price Collection Tools

ADB designed and developed price collection tools and the ICP APSS, a data entry and management program, and generating summary statistics. ADB also provided guidelines and manuals for data processing and editing. The NIS handled arrangements for using existing facilities, such as equipment, networks, and office space, to support the implementation of the 2021 ICP cycle.

The NIS ICP team suggested that ADB provide training on ICP price collection tools during ICP activities in the economies.

### VII. Challenges in the International Comparison Program Implementation

Implementing ICP activities for household consumption items posed significant challenges for the NIS ICP team. Finding branded consumer items and clothing of the required quality was particularly difficult.

For the non-household items, the challenge was finding construction materials and machinery and equipment that matched the specifications and models described in the structured product descriptions. Some new heavy machinery and equipment products were excluded from the price collection due to unavailability, with secondhand products being more common in Cambodia.

Another challenge during price collection was that some companies rejected data requests, so price collectors had to coordinate with company authorities and heads to obtain the necessary information.

### VIII. Lessons Learned and Future Directions

Since the 2017 ICP cycle, the NIS has integrated ICP price collection as a regular activity in its work program by including the ICP items from data collection surveys in Cambodia.

The NIS ICP team gained and benefited from their experience in the ICP activities. As a result, the NIS staff in the price statistics section of the National Accounts Department and the provincial staff are better prepared to participate in the 2024 ICP cycle.



Standardizing packaging units across economies is essential for accurately reflecting prices in future ICP cycles. Conducting comprehensive workshops is also necessary to ensure a deep understanding of the structured product descriptions and for intraeconomy validation of price data to review the collected prices from urban and rural areas for ICP price collection.

The NIS ICP team intends to incorporate ICP activities, subject to government support.

*Prepared by the NIS ICP team headed by Sim Ly and Keo Chettra; edited by the ADB ICP team and Melanie Kelleher.*

### Annex 2: List of Members of Core International Comparison Program Team (National Institute of Statistics)

Name	Title	Responsibility
Sim Ly	Deputy Director of the National Accounts Department	National Coordinator
Keo Chettra	Director of the National Accounts Department	Deputy National Coordinator
Bou Noch	Bureau Chief of Producer Price Index, National Accounts Department	Member
Un Chamroeun	Bureau Chief of Consumer Price Index, National Accounts Department	Member
Un Savin	Deputy Director of the National Accounts Department	Member
Hong Chantha	Deputy Bureau, Consumer Price Index	Price collector
Meth Sorphorn	Deputy Bureau, Producer Price Index	Price collector
Mok Seng	Deputy Bureau, Consumer Price Index	Price collector
Nou Phirun	Deputy Bureau, Producer Price Index	Price collector
Samut Setha	Deputy Bureau, Consumer Price Index	Price collector