



# Mapping Report on Indigenous Communal Land Titling (ICLT) with Gender Lenses in Cambodia

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- Cambodia's Land Law 2001 (article 23) legally defines indigenous peoples as peoples whose members manifest ethnic, social, cultural and economic unity and who practice a traditional lifestyle, and who cultivate the lands in their possession according to customary rules of collective use. It contains important provisions on the protection of indigenous lands, which allow for communal land titles rather than individual titles, preventing the sale and transfer of indigenous lands outside of the communities.
- In 2007, the Royal Government of Cambodia supported the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) to recognize the rights of indigenous peoples, including the rights to own, use, develop and control the lands.
- In 2009, the government adopted a National Policy on the Development of Indigenous Peoples which recognizes the distinct relationship that indigenous peoples have to their lands and natural resources, and also issued Sub-Decree No. 83 on Procedures of Registration of Land of Indigenous Communities.
- The process to obtain communal land title of indigenous peoples in Cambodia is complex, involving at least three Ministries, and it still faces delays and slow processes, affecting the rights of indigenous people, especially women to protect their communal land and natural resources that are important for their livelihoods and for tradition and cultural conservation.
- This mapping report seeks to map the geography of indigenous communities in Cambodia that have or have not been registered with communal land titling, disaggregated by poverty rates and using a gender lens. **The aim is to inform Cambodian Members of Parliament of the progress of ICLT in Cambodia and to provide information of where parliamentary field visits could be considered.**

## Key Messages

- Indigenous communities in Cambodia are mostly found in Ratanak Kiri, Mondul Kiri, Stung Treng and Kratie. Only indigenous communities in these four provinces received land titles. The communal land titling registration process in Cambodia, therefore, remains slow. To complete the communal land titling in Cambodia in the next ten years, the government would need to speed up its registration process by three times.
- The Parliament of Cambodia could consider conducting field visits to the northeastern provinces of Cambodia, especially Ratanak Kiri because these provinces have a reasonably high/medium poverty rate, women-headed households (at district levels) and domestic violence (at district levels) (Figure 1). As CCHR showed, a high prevalence of domestic violence could be an indicator for arising land conflicts in these areas [1].
- By visiting these provinces, Members of Parliaments could investigate the reasons for the delay of communal land titling and related challenges, its impacts on the livelihoods of indigenous people, especially women, and what could be done to address delays and expedite the process, as well as respond to the impacts.

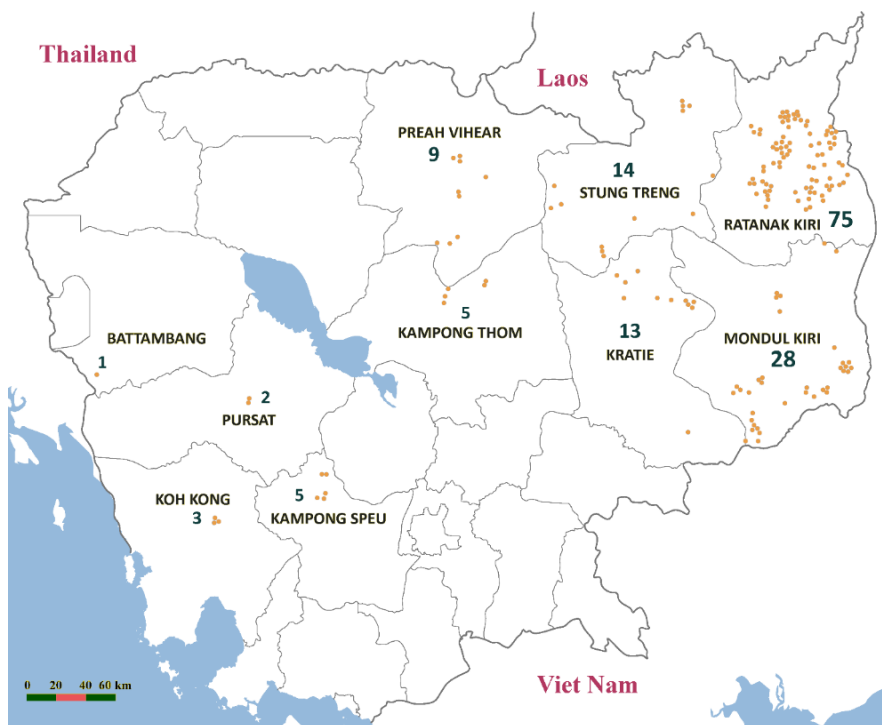
**Figure 1: Summary of Indigenous Communal Land Titling, Dissagregated by Poverty Rate, Women-Headed Households and Domestic Violence by Provinces**

ID	Province	#MRD Indigenous Communities	# Indigenous Communities receiving land titles	Poverty Rate at province	Women-headed HHs at district	HH with DV at district
1	Ratanak Kiri	75	27	H	ML	HM
2	Mondul Kiri	28	7	H	ML	HML
3	Stung Treng	14	2	M	ML	HL
4	Kratie	13	4	H	L	HM
5	Preah Vihear	9	0	M	ML	HM
6	Kampong Thom	5	0	H	M	H
7	Kampong Speu	5	0	M	M	H
8	Koh Kong	3	0	H	H	M
9	Pursat	2	0	M	M	H
10	Battambang	1	0	H	H	H

H High
  M Medium
  L Low

## Status of Indigenous Communities in Cambodia

**Map 1: Indigenous Communities identified by Ministry of Rural Development (MRD) in 2020**

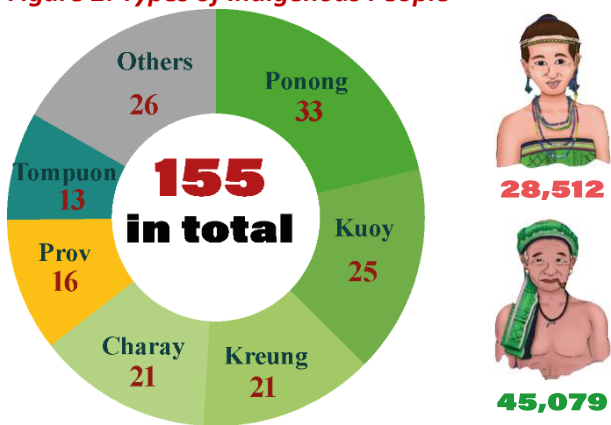


### Map 1 shows:

- By June 2021, the Ministry of Rural Development (MRD) identified 155 indigenous communities in 10 provinces in Cambodia [2].
  - Indigenous communities are mostly found in four northeastern provinces such as Ratanak Kiri, Mondul Kiri, Kratie and Stung Treng [2].
- Ratanak Kiri (75)
  - Mondul Kiri (28)
  - Stung Treng (14)
  - Kratie (13)
  - Preah Vihear (9)
  - Kampong Thom (5)
  - Kampong Speu (5)
  - Koh Kong (3)
  - Pursat (2)
  - Battambang (1)

**Source:** Report on the Demographic and Socio-Economic Situation of Indigenous Peoples in Cambodia,"Ministry of Planning and Ministry of Rural Development, Phnom Penh, 2021

**Figure 2: Types of Indigenous People**



**28,512**



**45,079**

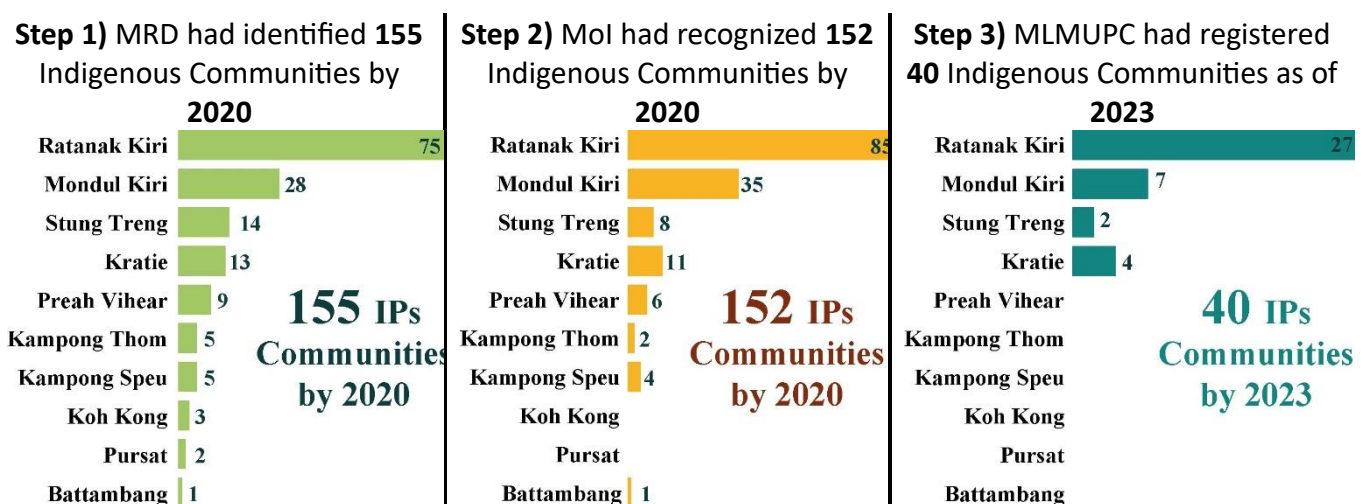
- Approximately 16,725 Indigenous households within 155 communities are identified by MRD in which 28,512 and 45,079 people are women and men, respectively [2].
- There are six main types of ethnic minorities for Indigenous Communities in Cambodia. They include Ponong, Kuoy, Kreung, Charay, Prov, Tompuon. Other ethnic groups consist of Kavat, Suoy, Kroal, Ka Chork, etc [2].

**Source:** Report on the Demographic and Socio-Economic Situation of Indigenous Peoples in Cambodia, "Ministry of Planning and Ministry of Rural Development, Phnom Penh, 2021

### Process to Register Indigenous Communal Land Titling

- Sub-decree No.83 on the registration procedure of communal land titling highlights three steps involving three ministries for registering indigenous community land, namely, the Ministry of Rural Development (MRD), the Ministry of Interior (Mol) and the Ministry of Land Management Urban Planning and Construction (MLMUPC) [1].
- According to Zoning Guidelines for the Protected Areas in Cambodia and the Law on Forestry 2002, for indigenous communal lands that are situated in the community zone of protected areas or in the permanent forest estates, registering the land title of this indigenous communal land shall have prior agreement from other relevant ministries such as the Ministry of Environment (MoE) and/or the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) [3, 4].

**Figure 3: Indigenous Communal Land Titling Procedure**



**Source:** Report on the Demographic and Socio-Economic Situation of Indigenous Peoples in Cambodia, "Ministry of Planning and Ministry of Rural Development, Phnom Penh, 2021 and ICLT Database, "LANDESA", Phnom Penh, 2024

- **Figure 3 shows:**
  - The Ministry of Rural Development identified 155 indigenous communities, but only 152 are recognized by the Ministry of Interior [2].
  - Out of 155 indigenous communities, 40 indigenous communities have been successfully registered and received land titling certificates so far [2,5].

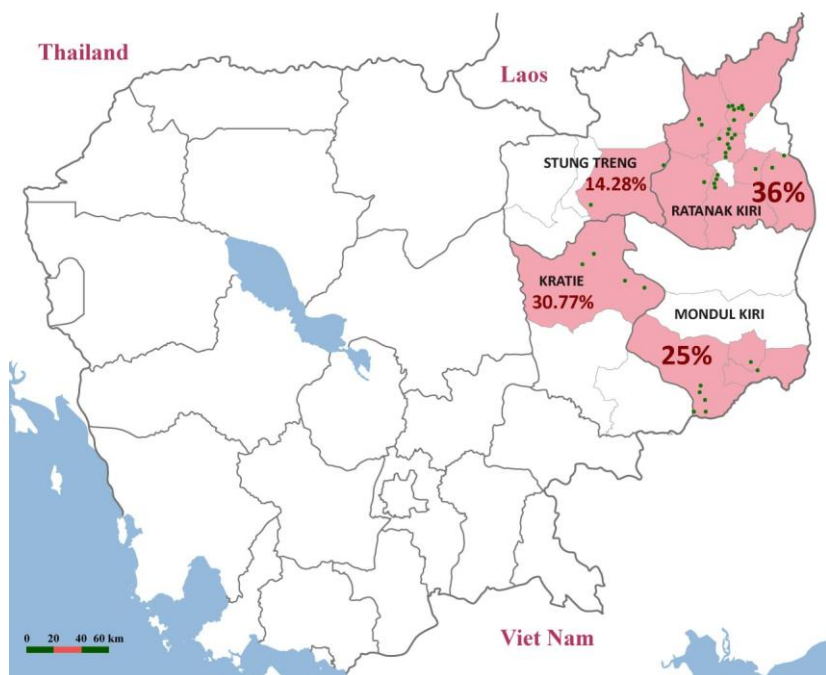
**Figure 4: Progress of Indigenous Communal Land Titling by Year from 2011-2023**



Source: ICLT Database, "LANDESA", Phnom Penh, 2024

- **Figure 4 shows:**
  - For 13 years from 2011 to 2023, only a quarter of indigenous communities have been registered with land titling. It is estimated that on average, only 3 indigenous communities are registered per year [5].
  - If the government intends to complete ICLT registration in Cambodia in the next 10 years, it needs to accelerate its efforts by approximately 3 times.

**Map 2: Distribution of ICLT across 4 Provinces in 2023**

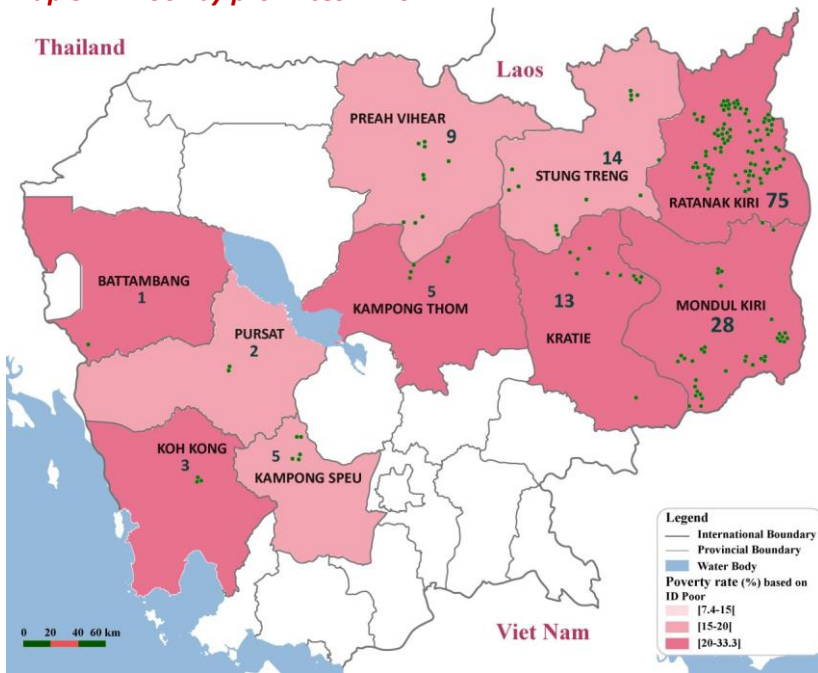


Source: Report on the Demographic and Socio-Economic Situation of Indigenous Peoples in Cambodia, "Ministry of Planning and Ministry of Rural Development, Phnom Penh, 2021 and ICLT Database, "LANDESA", Phnom Penh, 2024

- **Map 2 shows:**
  - Communal land titling certificates have been distributed to Ratanak Kiri, Mondul Kiri, Kratie and Stung Treng.
  - Less than 50% of indigenous communities in those provinces have received land titles.
  - For instance, only 36% of indigenous communities in Ratanak Kiri, 30.77% in Kratie, 25% in Mondul Kiri have and 14.28% in Stung Treng received land titles [2, 5].

# Poverty Rate (ID Poor) across Provinces with Indigenous Communities

**Map 3: ID Poor by provinces in 2024**

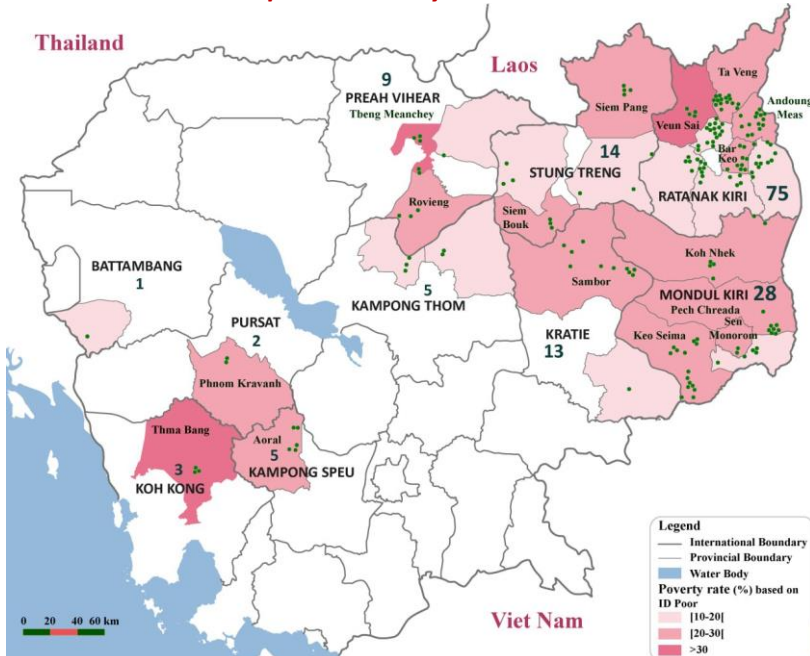


**Map 3 shows:**

- Of the 10 provinces with indigenous communities, 6 provinces have a high poverty rate (above 20%) and 4 provinces have a medium poverty rate in 2024.
- Provinces with a high poverty rate are Ratanak Kiri, Mondul Kiri, Kratie, Kampong Thom, Battambang and Koh Kong.
- Provinces with a medium poverty rate are Pursat, Kampong Speu, Preah Vihear and Strung Treng [6].

**Source:** Ministry of Planning, The Identification of Poor Households Programme in Cambodia, Phnom Penh: Department of Identification of Poor Households, 2024.

**Map 4: ID Poor by Districts in 2024**



**Map 4 demonstrates that:**

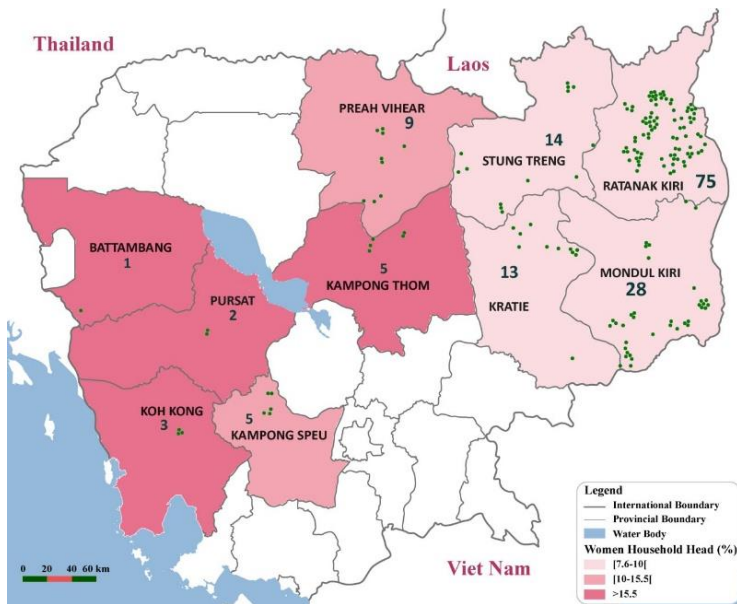
- By district, Thma Bang of Koh Kong, Tbeng Meanchey of Preah Vihear and Veun Sai of Ratanak Kiri are the poorest districts with more than 30% of the households living in poverty in 2024 [6].

**Source:** Ministry of Planning, The Identification of Poor Households Programme in Cambodia, Phnom Penh: Department of Identification of Poor Households, 2024.



## Women-headed Households by Provinces with Indigenous Communities

**Map 5: Women-headed households by provinces in 2022**

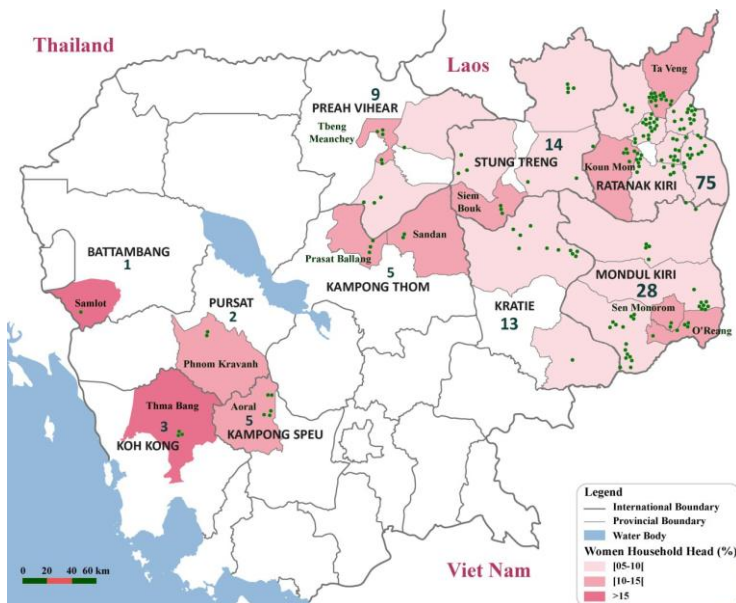


**Source:** Ministry of Interior, Commune Database, Phnom Penh: National Committee for Subnational Democratic Development, 2022.

### Map 5 shows:

- Koh Kong, Battambang, Pursat, and Kampong Thom have the highest proportion of woman-headed households in 2022 (over 15.5%) [7].
- Ratanak Kiri, Mondul Kiri, Kratie, and Stung Treng although highly populated with indigenous communities, have the least proportion of women-headed households in 2022 (below 10%) [7].

**Map 6: Women-headed Households by districts in 2022**



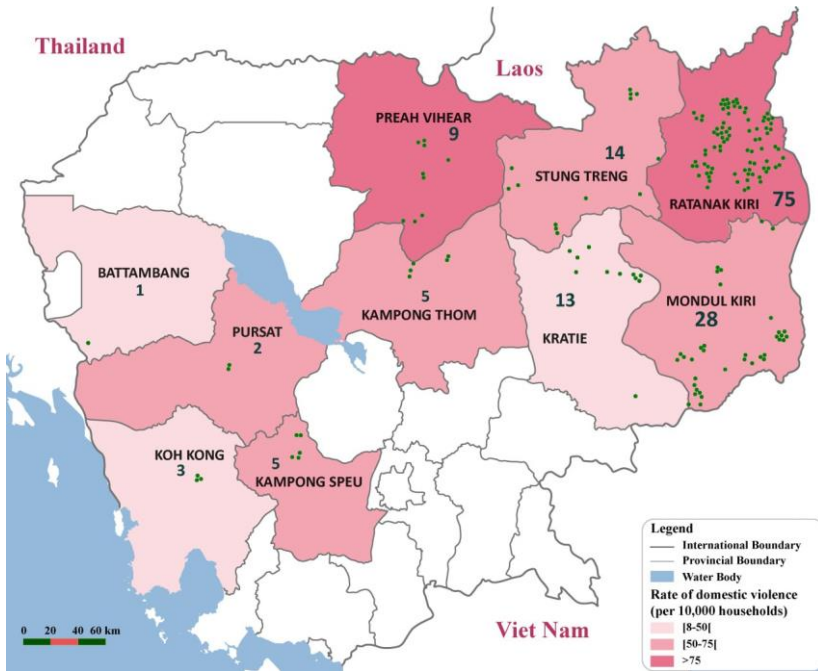
**Source:** Ministry of Interior, Commune Database, Phnom Penh: National Committee for Subnational Democratic Development, 2022.

### Map 6 shows that:

- At the district level, Thma Bang of Koh Kong and Samlot of Battambang have the highest proportion of women-headed households in 2022 (over 15%) [7].
- Ta Veng and Koun Mom of Ratanak Kiri, Sen Monorom and O'Reang of Mondul Kiri and Siem Bouk of Stung Treng are the five districts with a medium level of women-headed households in 2022 (10-15%) [7].

## Domestic Violence by Provinces with Indigenous Communities

**Map 7: Domestic Violence by provinces in 2022**

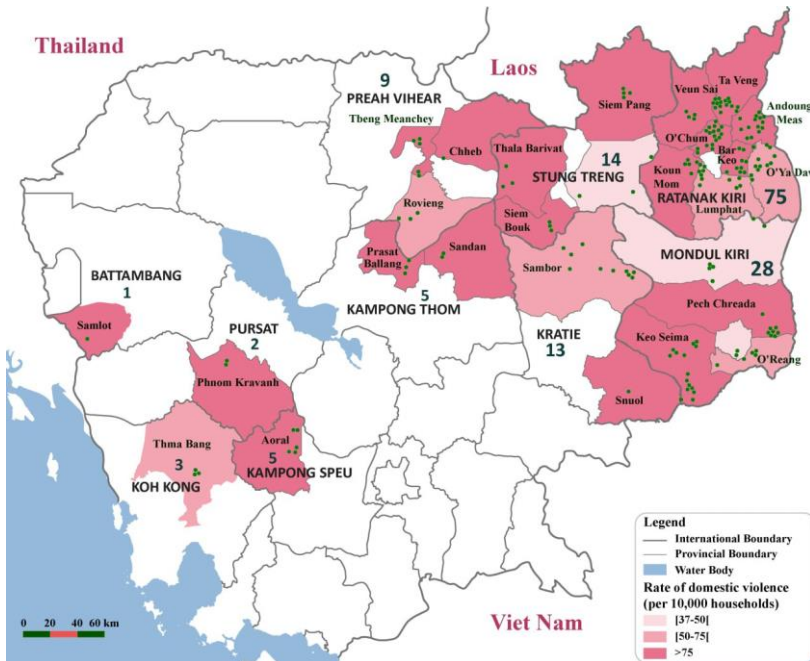


**Source:** Ministry of Interior, Commune Database, Phnom Penh: National Committee for Subnational Democratic Development, 2022.

**Map 7 shows:**

- Phreah Vihear and Ratanak Kiri are the two provinces with the highest level of domestic violence at the household level in 2022 (over 75 per 10,000 households) [7].

**Map 8: Domestic Violence by district in 2022**



**Source:** Ministry of Interior, Commune Database, Phnom Penh: National Committee for Subnational Democratic Development, 2022.

**Map 8 demonstrates that:**

- At the district level, the majority of districts of Ratanak Kiri, Mondul Kiri, Stung Treng and Kratie show a high prevalence of domestic violence in 2022 (over 75 per 10,000 households) [7].

## Summary

The Royal Government of Cambodia recognizes land security as a means for reducing poverty and ensuring sustainable livelihoods of indigenous people and land registration for indigenous people is a guarantee of secure land tenure. The process to register indigenous community land titling, however, remains slow as only a quarter of indigenous communities have been registered with land titling by 2023. While most of the indigenous communities are situated in the northeastern provinces, Ratanakiri could be a potential province to be visited by the Cambodian parliament considering the number of remaining unregistered communities, poverty rates, levels of women-headed households and domestic violence. This mapping report suggests specific districts such as Taveng, Andoung Meas and O'Chum in Ratanakiri, where parliamentary fact finding missions could be conducted to investigate the delays and challenges in implementing indigenous community land titling in Cambodia.

## References

- [1] Cambodian Centre for Human Rights. (2016). Cambodia's Women in Land Conflict. Cambodian Centre for Human Rights. [Cambodia's Women in Land Conflict \(cchrcambodia.org\)](http://cchrcambodia.org).
- [2] Ministry of Planning and Ministry of Rural Development. (2021). Report on the Demographic and
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- [4] RGC (2002). Preah Reach Kram NS/RKM/0802/016 on Law on Forestry. Phnom Penh, Cambodia.
- [5] LANDESA. (2024). Indigenous Community Land Titling Database. Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Socio-Economic Situation of Indigenous Peoples in Cambodia. Phnom Penh, Cambodia.
- [6] Ministry of Planning. (2024). The Identification of Poor Households Programme in Cambodia. Department of Identification of Poor Households. [IDPoor \(https://app.idpoor.gov.kh\)](https://app.idpoor.gov.kh)
- [7] Ministry of Interior. (2022). Commune Database of National Committee for Subnational Democratic Development. Phnom Penh, Cambodia.