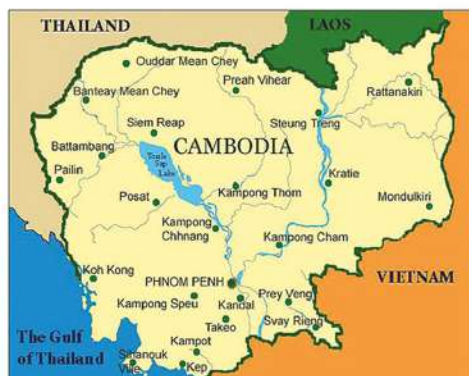




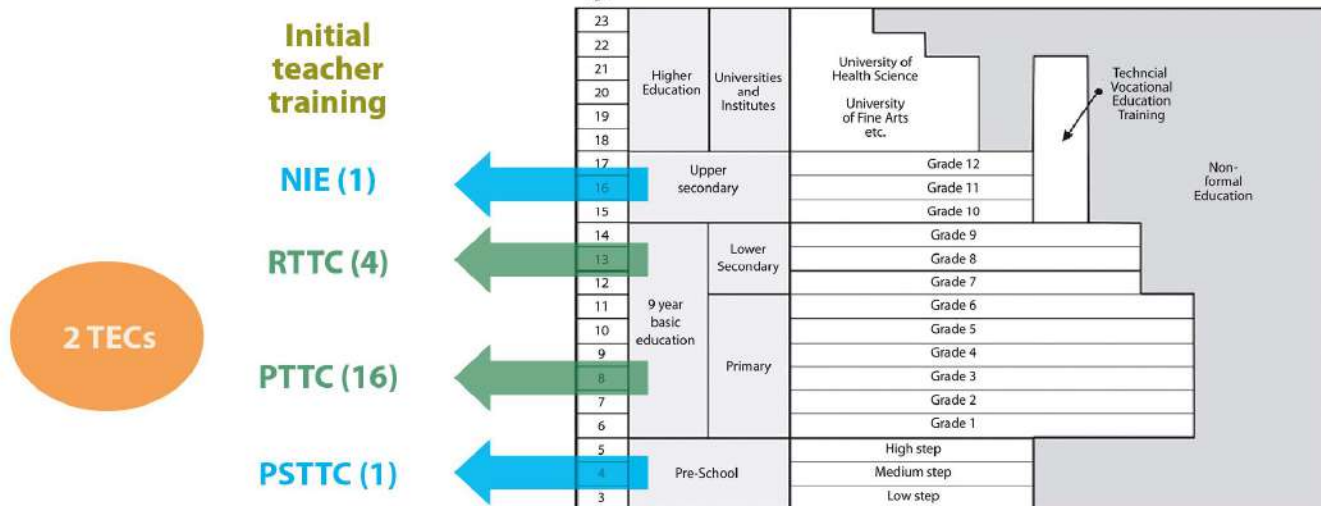
# Education in Cambodia



## Some history

- Traditionally:
  - education in the Wats (Buddhist monasteries) exclusively for boys
  - basic literature, the foundation of religion and skills for daily life like carpentry, artistry, craftwork, constructing, playing instruments etc.
- French colony (1863-1953): introduction of a formal education system influenced by the Western educational model
- Khmer Rouge (1975-1979):
  - 75 % of teachers, 96 % of university students, 67 % of all primary and secondary school pupils killed
  - Long-term impact on the education system and social capital in Cambodia
- 1980s-1990s: education reconstructed from almost 'nothing'. The practical approach: People with higher knowledge teach those with little knowledge. People with little knowledge teach those who know nothing.

## Education Structure



## School calendar

**Open** 1 November  
**Close** 30 August

### Holidays

Short break: 2 weeks in April (Khmer New Year)  
Long breaks: September – October  
Other government holidays: +/- 25 days/year

## A school day

Monday – Saturday

Free on last Thursday of the month (only ECE and primary school)

## School hours in 2 shifts

Morning: 7am – 11am  
Afternoon: 1pm – 5pm

## Reforms

- Grade 12 Exam reform
- 2016-2018: Transforming teacher training from 12+2 to 12+4 (Teacher Education College)
- Higher Education Institution Reform
- Curriculum Review 2025

## Challenges

- High teacher-pupil ratio: 43.8 is national average
- Completion and promotion rates at primary level are significantly worse for male than female students and widen each year
- High drop-out rates at lower secondary level, especially girls
- Supply and deployment of trained and qualified teachers
- Lack of textbooks and teaching materials
- Lack of sanitary facilities: latrines, washing hand facility and toilets
- Recent in-service training programme for teachers still small scale
- Lack of external funding for implementation of the Teacher Policy and Teacher Policy Action Plan (TPAP)
- Insufficient quality and relevant learning for children and youth