

RACSMEI NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2026



This design reflects an essential principle: infectious disease risks do not operate in silos, surveillance systems should not either.

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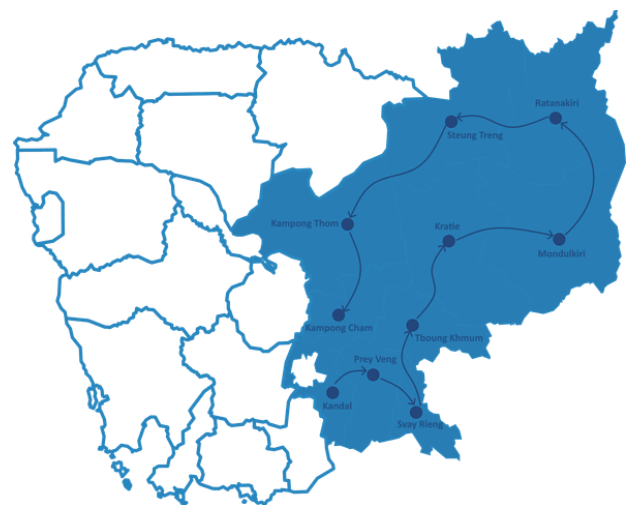
RACSMEI Beginning

RACSMEI is a nationwide One Health initiative led by the Institut Pasteur of Cambodia, with support from the Inter-Ministerial Coordinating Committee for One Health (IMCC-OH) and funding from the Wellcome Trust and AFD (Ecomore initiative). The study assesses the risk of community spread of endemic infectious diseases by integrating human, animal, and environmental surveillance.

Field operations began on 18 December in Kandal Province, launching multidisciplinary data collection nationwide. By breaking down traditional sectoral silos, RACSMEI establishes a coordinated national risk assessment framework that strengthens Cambodia's capacity to anticipate emerging threats, detect outbreaks earlier, and respond more effectively.

As the survey expands across Cambodia's provinces, RACSMEI is building a national model for integrated disease surveillance, supporting evidence-informed decision-making and strengthening community protection against both endemic and emerging health threats

The First Villages Reached



Geographical distribution of the first provinces of RACSMEI (18 December 2025 – 13 February 2026)



RACSMEI: A National One Health Initiative



HUMAN HEALTH COMPONENT

11 646

participants enrolled

- **2 800** households
- **4 146** adults
- **4 700** children



ANIMAL HEALTH COMPONENT

7 485

animal samples collected

- dogs
- pigs
- cattle and buffalo
- small ruminants
- poultry



ENVIRONMENTAL COMPONENT

892

environmental samples collected

- air
- surfaces
- soil
- water

18 DECEMBER 2025 - 13 FEBRUARY 2026

A MAJOR MILESTONE FOR ONE HEALTH IN CAMBODIA

13 February 2026 – Completion of Phase One

Over two months, multidisciplinary teams operated across Cambodia, implementing one of the **most ambitious national-scale One Health survey** to date. Field teams simultaneously collected human, animal, environmental, and qualitative data across provinces.

Phase One confirms that **coordinated, multisectoral data collection is feasible at the national level**, laying the foundation for a sustainable surveillance platform and a national biobank to support research and preparedness beyond this study.

The **second field phase (23 February–29 April 2026)** will complete nationwide data collection and precede laboratory analyses, data interpretation, and risk modeling

This phase demonstrates the strength of **intersectoral collaboration, bringing together epidemiologists, veterinarians, environmental specialists, laboratory teams, and national stakeholders.**



PHASE ONE ACHIEVEMENTS

495 stakeholders from the human health, animal health, and environmental and climate sectors were interviewed.



NEXT STEPS

13 February 2026

Phase Two of field operations (23 February - 29 April 2026) will:

- Finalize nationwide sampling.
- Consolidate the national biobank.
- Initiate integrated laboratory analyses.
- Prepare data for cross-sectoral modeling.

RACSMEI continues to evolve as a national One Health surveillance platform designed to generate decision-relevant evidence and strengthen long-term health security in Cambodia.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We sincerely thank our field teams, provincial authorities, ministerial partners, the IMCC-OH, and community stakeholders whose collaboration embodies the One Health spirit at the heart of RACSMEI.

