

# RACSMEI NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2026



## COMPLETION OF NATIONWIDE SURVEY: STRENGTHENING CAMBODIA'S ONE HEALTH PLATFORM

The RACSMEI study has reached a significant milestone with **the successful conclusion of its nationwide field survey, conducted from December 18, 2025, to April 2, 2026.**

This multidisciplinary operation was implemented across all 25 provinces of Cambodia, establishing a coordinated national risk assessment framework designed to strengthen the country's capacity to anticipate and detect infectious disease outbreaks. By integrating surveillance across the human, animal, and environmental sectors, RACSMEI has built a robust evidence base to support informed decision-making and long-term health security.

**The conclusion of the survey coincided with the One Health Satellite Event held in Cambodia on April 1-2, presided over by the Minister of Health, the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, the Minister of Environment, and the French Ambassador, where project findings were presented. This milestone marks the formal transition from field data collection to analysis and cross-sectoral risk modeling.**



RACSMEI strengthened my conviction that understanding how communities perceive and respond to risk is critical to improving surveillance systems.

**SIENG Tephania**  
Soc Sci Co-investigator



# SURVEY IMPLEMENTATION

18 December 2025 - 2 April 2026



HUMAN HEALTH COMPONENT  
**18 481**  
participants enrolled

ANIMAL HEALTH COMPONENT  
**10 749**  
animal samples collected

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH COMPONENT  
**1 454**  
environmental samples collected

**25** provinces

**104** villages

**754** stakeholders

**4 160** households

## THE POWER OF IMAGES: FOSTERING COMMUNITY TRUST AND SCIENTIFIC LITERACY

A central challenge of the RACSMEI study was ensuring that its complex scientific objectives were transparent and accessible to all, particularly families with limited literacy. To bridge the gap between complex scientific concepts and local understanding, the project utilized illustrated booklets and animated videos designed to visually communicate the study's objectives. These visual communication tools helped families understand the "invisible" nature of microbes and how transmission cycles function between humans, animals, and their shared environment.

By transforming abstract scientific goals into accessible visual narratives, these materials empowered participants to understand the importance of the study, fostering the high level of community acceptance necessary to build a truly representative national surveillance model.



# FROM THE FIELD

18 December 2025 - 2 April 2026

