

Developing robust clean air plans

Supporting Cambodia to produce its first comprehensive plan to improve air quality and protect human health

Air pollution is the world's largest environmental threat to human health, resulting in millions of premature deaths per year. Despite this, a large number of countries lack effective planning processes to assess the magnitude of the problem, and to identify the solutions that can protect their citizens. SEI's collaboration with the Ministry of Environment of Cambodia and the United Nations Environment Programme demonstrates **how low- and middle-income countries can develop robust air pollution action plans**.

In **Cambodia**, SEI supported planners in the Ministry of Environment to develop an **emission inventory** of air pollutants to understand the major sources of air pollution across the country, which included transport, household cooking, and open burning of waste. The implementation of **14 specific mitigation measures were then evaluated**, and showed that their implementation could reduce emissions of health-damaging air pollutants by between 60 and 80% in 2030, compared to a baseline scenario. This level of reduction in air pollutant emissions was **estimated to avoid 900 premature deaths per year**.

Cambodia's Clean Air Plan used this assessment to create a concrete set of actions that can be implemented to improve air quality, and can be assessed during the Plan's implementation period. The Plan was launched in January 2022 and endorsed by the Minister of Environment.

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