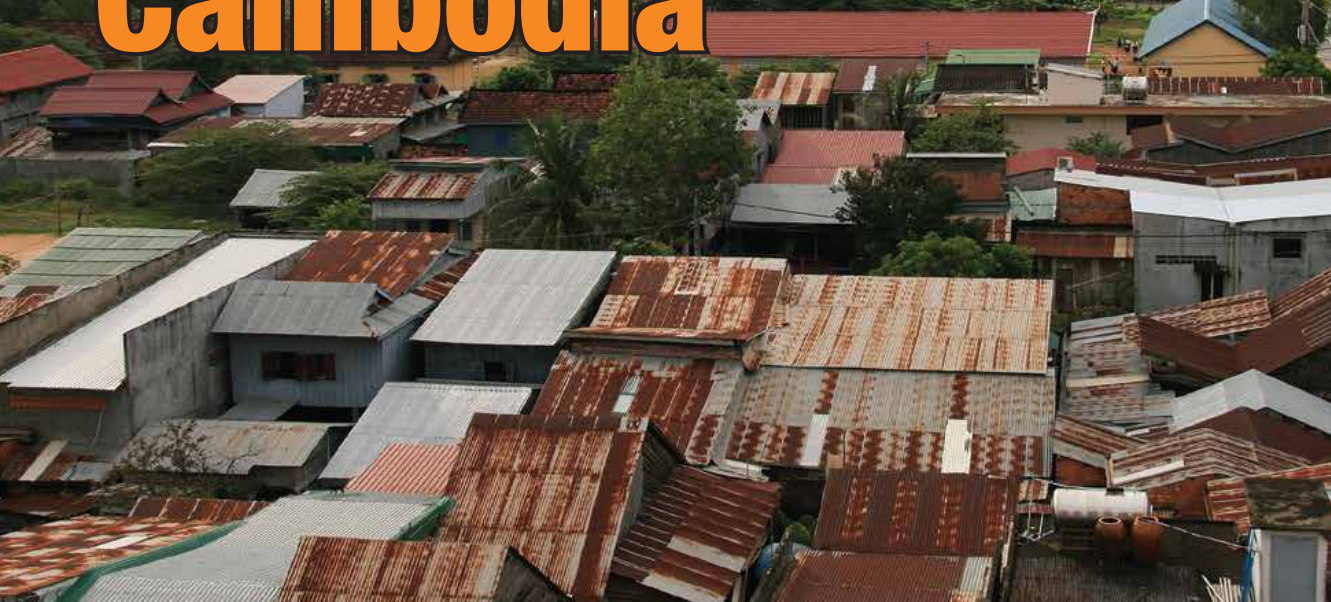


# Kampot, Cambodia



## City overview

Population	
51,851 (2015)	
Total waste generated per day	Waste generated per capita per day
32–35 tonnes (2015)	0.6 kg (2015)
Waste-to-resource facility established	2012
Capacity of waste-to-resource facility	3 tonnes per day
Operator	Community Sanitation and Recycling Organization
Local partners	
Kampot Municipality, Kampot Province	

Source: CSARO.

# Introduction

Kampot is a small town on the edge of the Teuk Chhou River in southern Cambodia. The area's production of black and white pepper, durian and fish sauce is a primary source of revenue, along with the local tourism industry. The town faces a number of challenges regarding sanitation, water supply and waste management. As a result of the growing tourism industry, town cleanliness is increasingly important and acts as a strong incentive for the local government to support waste separation and improved waste management.

The town generates around 32–35 tonnes of solid waste per day. Approximately 60 per cent of the waste from households, restaurants, hotels and shops is organic. The percentage of organic waste generated at the large central Samaki market is higher, at approximately 80 per cent (see Box 14).

Three parties have solid waste management responsibilities in the town: the provincial government of Kampot has an advisory role and decision-making powers; the municipal authority is tasked with implementing local policies; and Global Action for Environment Awareness (GAEA), a private company, manages waste collection. Due to insufficient financing and limited human resources, GAEA collects from only 36 per cent of Kampot's households. As a result, a significant amount of waste is burned or disposed of in the street and open spaces, into waterways or at illegal dumpsites.

The informal sector is particularly active in waste management in Kampot, with more than 30 waste pickers operating in the town, most of whom are female and earning \$2–\$3.50 per day.



## Promoting the IRRC model in Kampot

Following support from the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Environment, both of which urged the provincial government to improve solid waste management in Kampot, a 3-tonne-capacity IRRC was established in 2012. This involved a partnership between ESCAP, the Community Sanitation and Recycling Organization (CSARO), Kampot Municipality and Kampot Province.

ESCAP provided the funds to cover construction of the facility. The municipal authority provided the land on which to build it and some policy support. The local waste collector, GAEA, which has a long-term agreement with the municipal authority for waste collection, was tasked with collecting and delivering separated waste to the IRRC.

CSARO operates the facility and provides capacity-building and awareness-raising information at the community level. This has involved a range of activities, including campaigns using posters and leaflets, workshops and community meetings to inform the public of the project and the need for waste separation at source. The initiative also has targeted school children, teachers and school managers. CSARO has engaged the informal waste collectors and facilitated the organization of a self-help group among them who now operate the waste-to-resource facility under CSARO management and collect waste in some communities.

A mid-term plan to promote source separation in the city was established through joint efforts between the government bodies, CSARO and ESCAP. This plan targets markets, small businesses, hotels and households for waste separation. It also provides clear guidance on waste separation, collection and transportation for each target group.



## Results and impact

The project has had mixed results. The IRRC operates well below capacity, processing between 0.2 and 0.8 tonnes of organic waste per day. Most of the organic waste derives from the Samaki market and some communities where households practise waste separation at source. The price of compost is between \$170 and \$200 per tonne, which is a good price. Yet, little compost is produced or sold (an average of 0.1 tonne of compost is sold per month), which severely limits revenue for the facility.

GAEA has demonstrated weak commitment, and the provincial and municipal governments have not put in place adequate incentives or regulation to enforce coordination with the project. Part of the issue is financial constraint. The bulk of GAEA's income derives from collection fees gathered from market authorities, public institutions and commercial entities (restaurants, hotels and other businesses), while the collection fees from households are low, at \$1–\$1.50 per month.

Nonetheless, there has been a strong increase in understanding the need for and practise of waste separation at source. Early in 2012, only 2 per cent of the waste generated in Samaki market was separated by the vendors. By 2015, some 40–50 per cent of waste was separated, an increase attributed to various engagement strategies by a range of actors.

Similarly, some success has been found with the informal sector waste pickers who have become more organized. The waste pickers operate the IRRC and collect waste from communities in exchange for reliable salaries, protective clothing and other benefits — representing an important step in the quasi-formalization of the sector.

