

Since its completion in 2018, the existence of the Lower Sesan 2, a dam in Cambodia's Mekong River Basin, has led to two major problems which are a decline in fisheries on a national level and displacement of the minorities within the area. Because the dam construction takes up the space of two major headwaters to the Mekong where several fishes inhabit, the fish's reproductive cycles and habitats are disrupted, resulting in the death of the entire species. As many lives in Cambodia rely their living and source of food on fisheries, there was opposition from local people who foresee these impending problems. However, it was immediately ignored. Some of them were also forced to leave their household. In addition, the homes of these villagers, mostly indigenous and ethnic minorities, estimated between 4,500 to 5,000 people were flooded by the dam which means not only the main source of their food and water are gone but also their source of income. There is not much to do with the land that is submerged by water. No plants or fruits can be cultivated there. Therefore, the situation leaves them little choices: to resettle or to stay while struggling to earn a living. Even though the communities have received compensations such as pre-fabricated houses and money for new houses, it could not make up for what these people have lost. Moreover, in the view of economists, it is opined that the sacrifice the Cambodians have paid, either the losses in fishery income or the cost of displacement, might not be worth the price. Despite being the widest dam in Asia, electricity is still insufficient and unreliable in Cambodia. Other than that, the dam that takes up most space from vegetated land could emit large amounts of carbon dioxide and methane that are equal to those of fossil fuel plants.