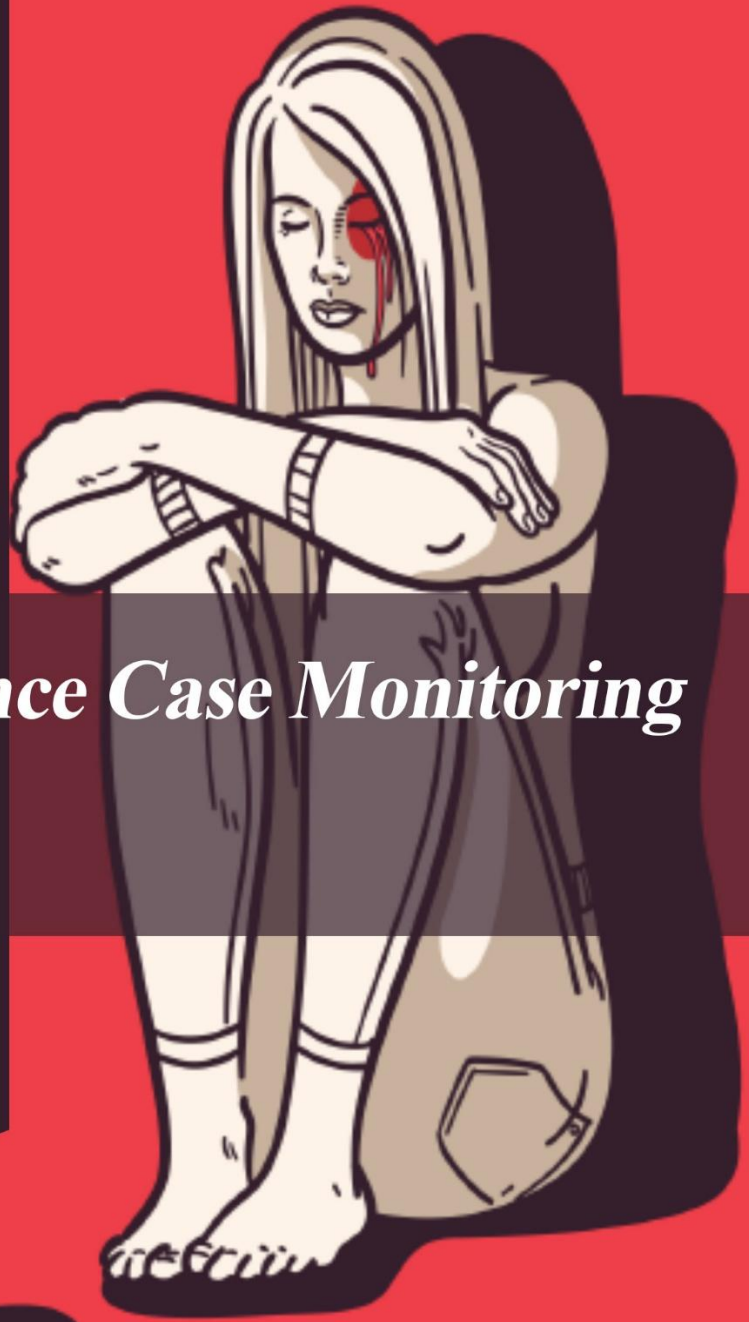


REPORT ON

***Gender-Based Violence Case Monitoring
Data in Cambodia***



January to December 2025

Report on Gender-Based Violence Case Monitoring Data in Cambodia January to December 2025

Overview: This report presents data collected and monitored by the Cambodian Human Rights and Development Association (ADHOC) during its monitoring of gender-based violence cases particularly cases of rape (where victims are minors) and domestic violence in the Kingdom of Cambodia (“Cambodia”) from January to December 2025. In addition, ADHOC compared data between 2024 and 2025 to assess whether any progress has been made.

In 2024, ADHOC monitored and observed cases of rape and domestic violence through staff based at its headquarters in Phnom Penh and in 23 capital/provinces nationwide. In 2025, domestic violence was monitored and observed through staff based in 13 capital/provinces.

The Royal Government of Cambodia has defined gender-based violence as “violence that is committed against a woman because she is a woman or violence that affects women disproportionately.” This issue remains a major challenge in Cambodia. The Cambodia Demographic and Health Survey 2021-2022 found that more than 21% of Cambodian women aged 15 to 49 have experienced intimate partner violence.

ADHOC monitors and observes Gender-Based Violence cases with the following objectives:

(1) To track progress on the recommendations of the Royal Government of Cambodia's National Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against Women.

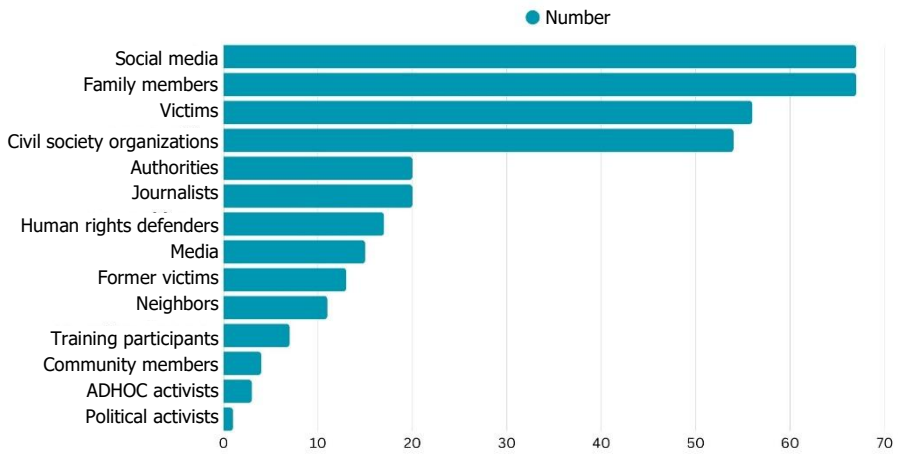
(2) To understand the accessibility and effectiveness of ADHOC's services, and when reporting on data, to raise awareness of the services provided by ADHOC. And

(3) To obtain indicators of whether social norms related to the acceptance of violence against women are being addressed (challenged) or are declining across society as a whole.

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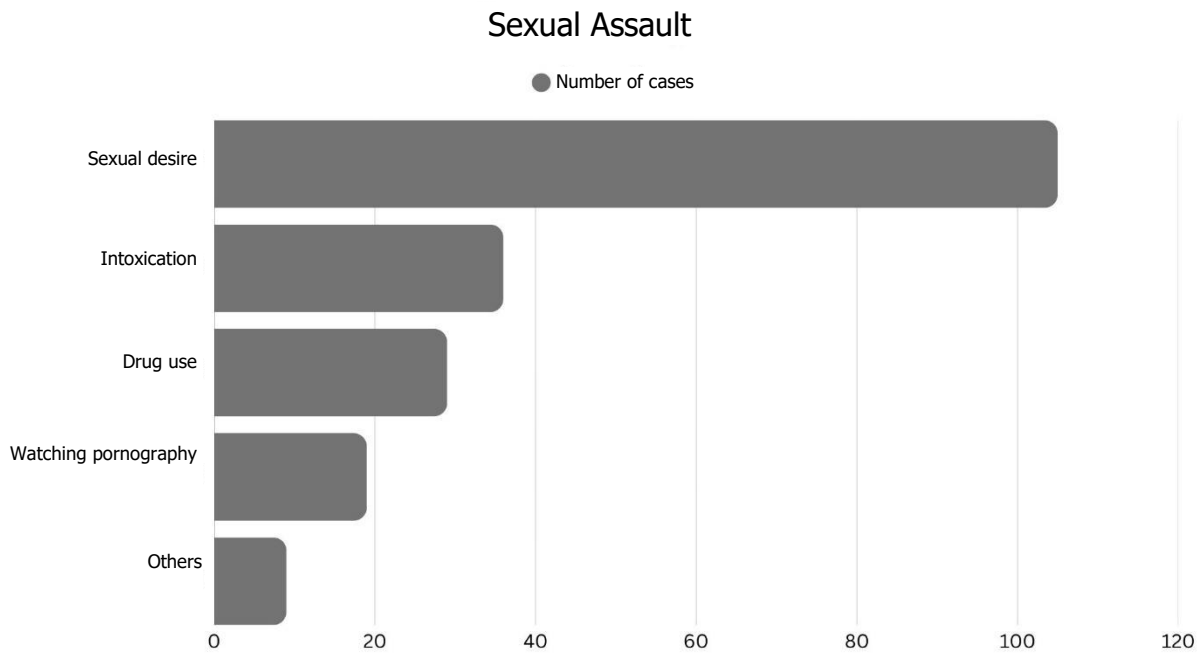
In 2025, ADHOC monitored 122 cases of sexual assault and 75 cases of domestic violence, for a total of 197 cases.

Who reported these cases to ADHOC?

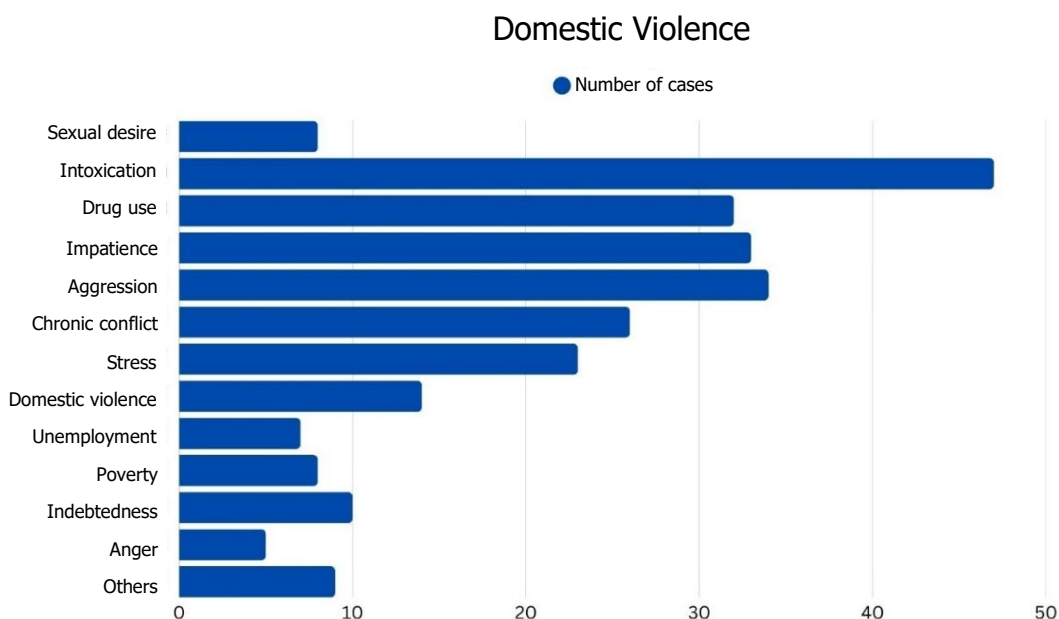


It is a positive development that the majority of informants were the victims themselves and their family members. In the past, **“the main reason that prevented (women) from seeking help was that they thought the violence was normal.”** This indicates that such stereotypes are gradually changing.

What are the main reasons behind these cases?



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The “**Further Data Analysis Report from the Domestic Violence Based on the Cambodia Demographic and Health Survey 2021-2022**” recommended that the Royal Government of Cambodia (“the Government”) address the issue of excessive alcohol consumption, as it has exacerbated the rate of Gender-Based Violence. “**Intoxication**” was found to be the highest contributing factor to domestic violence and the second highest contributing factor to rape, indicating that this issue must be addressed as a top priority.

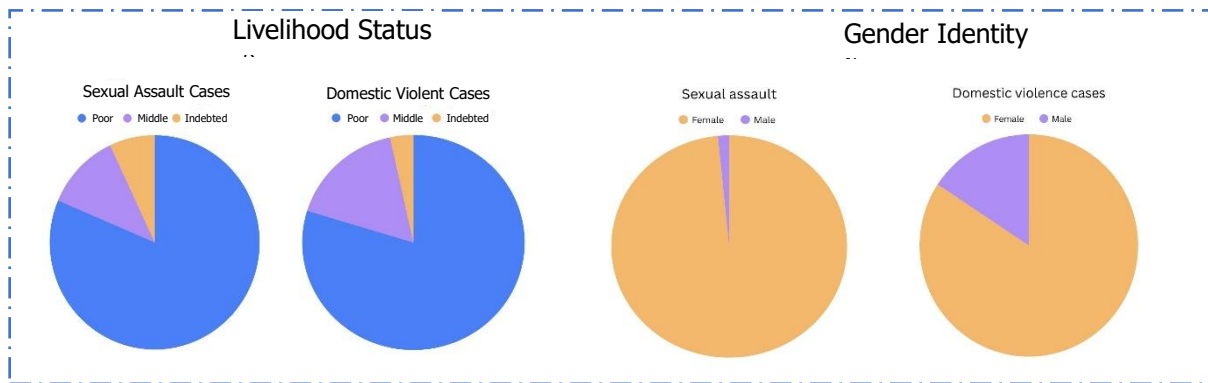
Another recommendation that appears to require strong commitment is the promotion of non-violent masculinity, meaning that emotions such as impatience, jealousy, and stress should not be expressed through, or blamed on, women.

However, it is a positive sign that the causes were found to not be self-blame. Victim blaming remains a major obstacle in addressing gender-based violence in Cambodia. Domestic violence has been seen as “**justified**” when gender norms are violated, such as in matters of food preparation, fulfilling sexual needs, and disobedience (Brickell, 2017).

Gender Identity and Livelihoods of Victims

Cases monitored by ADHOC showed no change in the trend that women and those living in poverty are the most frequent victims of Gender-Based Violence.


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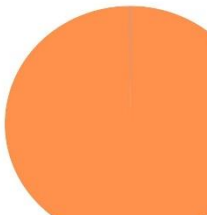
Gender Identity of Perpetrators

- The trend of the majority of perpetrators being male also continued in 2025.
- None of the perpetrators were identified as LGBTIQ+.

Domestic Violent Cases



Domestic Violent Cases

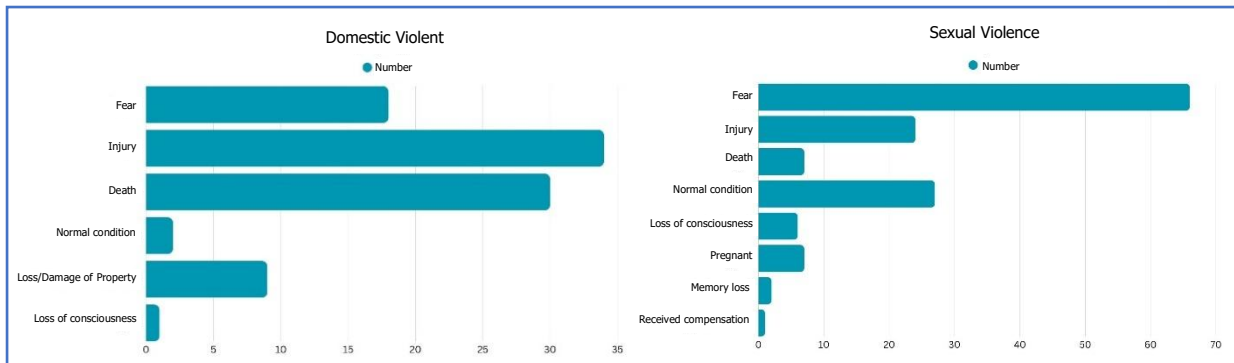


Condition of Victims After the Incident

Intimate partner violence is a major public health issue in Cambodia. However, it does not always receive adequate attention or an appropriate response. The Cambodia Health Survey found that when women seek help due to violence, they are rarely referred to healthcare workers, as violence is considered normal.

Between 2020 and August 2025, LICADHO recorded 146 cases of homicide related to domestic violence and sexual violence, involving 96 women and 46 children. As LICADHO has acknowledged, the actual number is likely higher, as many cases were unreported or uninvestigated.

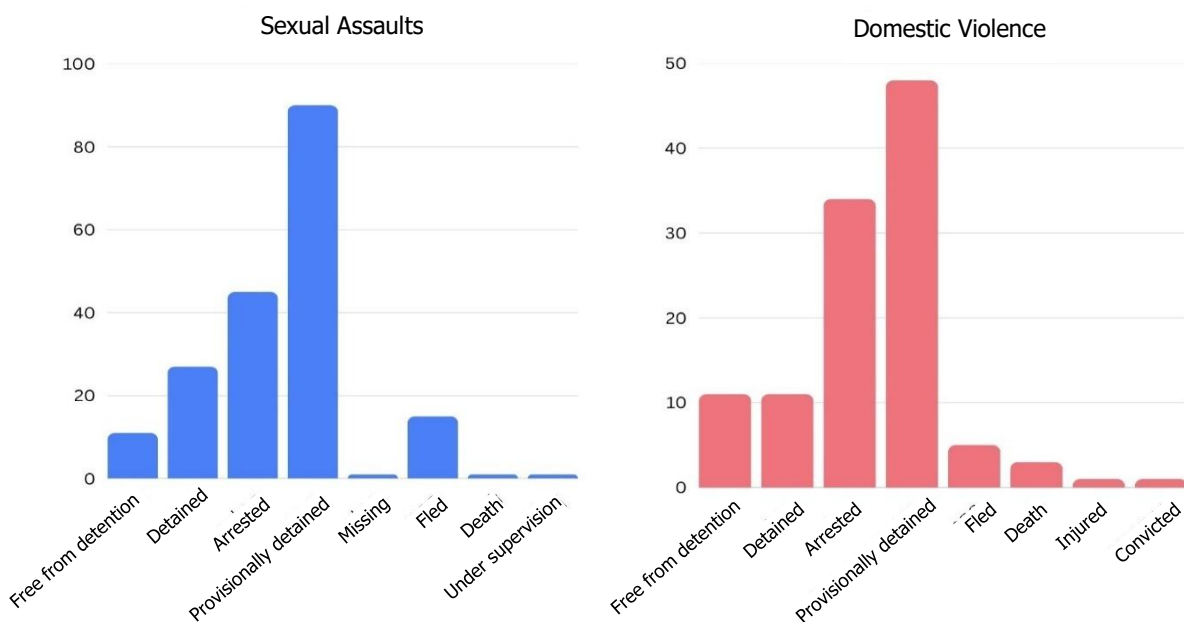
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Furthermore, among the rape cases monitored, only one victim received compensation. This reflects a number of issues within Cambodia's legal system. The law does not clearly stipulate the amount of compensation that should be ordered. If the perpetrator refuses to pay the civil compensation owed, the civil claimant is responsible for initiating enforcement proceedings themselves (and must bear the burden of producing substantial evidence). Compensation claims may escalate conflict further or yield no result when the perpetrator is a member of the victim's own family (which is frequently the case), and it requires the victim to file a separate civil case, which places additional burden in terms of cost, travel, and causes further psychological trauma.

Status of Perpetrators After the Incident

One positive development is the increase in penalties (legal consequences) imposed on Gender-Based Violence perpetrators.



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When comparing the two types of offenses, provisional detention is the measure taken by law enforcement authorities, accounting for approximately 47% of outcomes in rape cases and 42% in domestic violence cases. However, domestic violence perpetrators have a higher rate of remaining free after the incident (nearly 10%) compared to rape perpetrators (less than 6%).

Non-Filing of Complaints and Main Reasons

Of the total recorded cases, there were cases in which 11 victims did not file formal complaints with the competent authorities, including 5 rape cases and 6 domestic violence cases.



The lack of trust in law enforcement institutions was the biggest obstacle leading to non-reporting, with 4 victims explicitly stating that they had no confidence in the authorities to handle or take action on their cases.

Fear and the desire to prevent further escalation of conflict played a significant role in keeping victims silent. Of these, 2 victims decided not to file complaints out of fear of retaliation, while another 2 stated that they simply did not want the incident to become bigger than it already was.

One case did not proceed through the legal system because the parties were engaged in out-of-court mediation, while the remaining 2 cases were due to various unspecified reasons.

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This data revealed that nearly 36% of victims who did not file complaints did so due to a lack of trust in the judicial system. When combined with fear of retaliation or the desire to avoid further complications, the lack of trust in institutions and safety concerns became the primary barriers preventing victims of both rape and domestic violence from seeking formal legal protection.

Comparison of Data Between 2024 and 2025

The total number of recorded incidents decreased by approximately 29%, declining from a total of 277 cases in 2024 to a total of 197 cases in 2025. This downward trend was reflected across both types of offenses, with both rape cases and domestic violence cases recording a notable decrease in 2025.

Case Types	2024	2025	Change	Percentage of Change
Rape	170	122	Decreased by 48 cases	Decreased by approximately 28%
Domestic Violence	107	75	Decreased by 32 cases	approximately 30%
Total	277	197	Decreased by 80 cases	approximately 29%

Although this type of offense remained the highest among the two types of offenses in both years, rape cases decreased from 170 cases in 2024 to 122 cases in 2025 (a decrease of 48 cases).

Domestic violence cases also showed a decline, decreasing from 107 cases in 2024 to 75 cases in 2025 (a decrease of 32 cases).

Rape cases fluctuated more rapidly and declined at a faster rate compared to domestic violence. This suggests that domestic violence remains a more deeply rooted and difficult issue to eliminate, as it occurs behind closed doors and within family circles, making it less susceptible to public security measures or general prevention measures. Therefore, future interventions should place strong emphasis on the “private space” by focusing on the establishment of safe spaces at the community level and the provision of family conflict counselling, as domestic violence is showing immunity and resistance to current crime reduction strategies.

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Conclusion

There has been a notable shift in stereotypes and social norms, with victims and their family members no longer treating Gender-Based Violence (GBV) as normal, and have begun reporting incidents to the authorities directly.

Rape cases continue to account for the largest share among recorded Gender-Based Violence cases, maintaining a higher number than domestic violence cases in both years. Overall, the total number of both types of offenses reflects a significant and persistent challenge in society regarding Gender-Based Violence, requiring sustained attention from relevant institutions. Nevertheless, women and those living in poverty remain the most vulnerable groups, while men continue to be the overwhelming majority of perpetrators.

Despite the decrease in the number of cases, the report continues to highlight significant challenges, including excessive alcohol consumption as a primary cause of violence, the lack of trust in law enforcement institutions and the judicial system, victims' fear of retaliation, and difficulties in obtaining compensation and legal protection due to the complex and costly civil compensation enforcement procedures, all of which further compound the psychological and economic burden on victims.

Recommendations

For the Royal Government:

- Prioritize and strengthen alcohol consumption control measures, as intoxication remains a primary cause of domestic violence and serious rape.
- Competent authorities, especially the courts, must strengthen measures regarding civil compensation by ensuring that victims receive fair and just compensation through reducing or easing procedural complexities that place a burden on them.
- Strengthen the capacity and quality of competent authorities in resolving complaints with transparency and justice, as well as impose disciplinary actions or penalties on any officials who improperly enforce the law, in order to reduce

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the rate of public mistrust in the justice system—which acts as a barrier preventing victims from seeking justice

- Expand healthcare and psychological support services for victims through collaboration between the health sector and legal institutions. Currently, victims who seek help are rarely referred to doctors or medical professionals due to stigma and social shame.
- Increase nationwide awareness campaigns and education programs to change harmful gender stereotypes and reduce the acceptance of violence against women.

For relevant stakeholders (civil society organizations, non-governmental organizations, and community leaders):

- Promote non-violent masculinity: Invest in community education programs that cultivate patience, non-violent behavior, and gender equality. These programs should address psychological drivers such as impatience, jealousy, and stress, while emphasizing that none of these emotions can ever justify violence against women.
- Target resources to the most vulnerable groups: Provide legal assistance, economic support, physical and psychological rehabilitation, and direct protection services to impoverished communities and women, who continue to bear the greatest burden of gender-based violence.
- Strengthen community support networks: Since family members and local community networks are the primary sources of reporting, expand community awareness campaigns on how to safely document incidents, report cases, and protect survivors from intimidation and retaliation.
- Collaborate with local authorities, health centers, and community leaders to strengthen case referral mechanisms and improve support services for survivors.

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