**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA**

**NATION RELIGION KING**

3



**Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans, and Youth Rehabilitation**

**General Department of Technical**

**Elderly Welfare Department**

**II. The intersection between ageing and gender and the specific human rights concerns and challenges faced by older women.**

1. **What legal instruments, policies and programmes exist to address the particular challenges faced by older women, and how are they implemented and monitored?**
2. International and Regional Levels

Cambodia is a State Party that has ratified international and regional conventions to participate in promoting and addressing the rights of older women, including:

- [Convention on Human Rights](file:///D:/Reference%20for%20Answer%20UN/United_Nations_Convention_on_the_Rights.pdf)

- [Convention on the Rights of the Child](file:///D:/Reference%20for%20Answer%20UN/Convention%20of%20the%20child%20rights.pdf)

-  [Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](file:///D:/Reference%20for%20Answer%20UN/អនុសញ្ញាស្ដីពីសិទ្ធិជនពិការ.pdf)

- [Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women](file:///D:/Reference%20for%20Answer%20UN/អនុសញ្ញាស្ដីពីការលុបបំបាត់អំពើរំលោភទៅលើនារីភេទ.pdf)

- [Madrid International Declaration and Action Plan 2002](file:///D:/Reference%20for%20Answer%20UN/political-declaration-en.pdf)

- [ASEAN Human Rights Statement 2012](file:///D:/Reference%20for%20Answer%20UN/ASEAN%20HUMAN%20RIGHT.pdf)

* [Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Ageing - Empowering Older Persons in ASEAN Adopted-ASEAN Human Rights Statement](file:///D:/Reference%20for%20Answer%20UN/Kuala%20Lumpur%20Declaration%20on%20Ageing%20-%20Empowering%20Older%20Persons%20in%20ASEANAdopted.pdf).

1. National Level

The Royal Government of Cambodia has adopted policies and action plans, as well as

established relevant mechanisms with the participation of relevant ministries, institutions and partners in response to the elimination of age discrimination and the promotion of the rights of older women, including:

- Constitution of the Kingdom of Cambodia, 1993

- [The Constitution of the Kingdom of Cambodia, 1993](file:///D:/Reference%20for%20Answer%20UN/រដ្ឋធម្មនុញ្ញនៃព្រះរាជាណាចក្រកម្ពុជា.pdf)

- [Law on Human Rights](file:///D:/Reference%20for%20Answer%20UN/ច្បាប់ស្ដីពីសិទ្ធិមនុស្ស.pdf)

- [Law on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](file:///D:/Reference%20for%20Answer%20UN/ច្បាប់ស្ដីពីការរលើកកម្ពស់សិទ្ធិជនពិការ.pdf)

- [Law on the Suppression of Human Trafficking](file:///D:/Reference%20for%20Answer%20UN/ច្បាប់ស្ដីពីការបង្រ្កាបអំពើជួញដូរមនុស្ស.pdf)

- [Criminal Code](file:///D:/Reference%20for%20Answer%20UN/ក្រមព្រហ្មទណ្ឌ.pdf)

- [Code of Criminal Procedure of the Kingdom of Cambodia](file:///D:/Reference%20for%20Answer%20UN/ក្រមនីតិវិធីព្រហ្មទណ្ឌនៃព្រះរាជាណាចក្រកម្ពុជា%20(អង់គ្លេស).pdf)

- [Civil Code](file:///D:/Reference%20for%20Answer%20UN/ច្បាប់ក្រមរដ្ឋប្បវេណី.pdf)

- [National Ageing Policy 2017-2030](file:///D:/Reference%20for%20Answer%20UN/គោលនយោបាយជាតិស្ដីពីមនុស្សវ័យចាស់%20២០១៧-២០៣០.pdf)

- [National Social Protection Policy Framework 2016-2025](file:///D:/Reference%20for%20Answer%20UN/social-protection-policy-2016-2025.pdf)

- [National Population Policy 2016-2030](file:///D:/Reference%20for%20Answer%20UN/គោលនយោបាយជាតិប្រជាជន%202016-2030.pdf)

- [National Policy on Indigenous People Development, 2009](file:///D:/Reference%20for%20Answer%20UN/គោលនយោបាយជាតិស្តីពីការអភិវឌ្ឍជនជាតិដើមភាគតិច.pdf)

- [National Health Policy and Strategy for Health Care for the Elderly 2016](file:///D:/Reference%20for%20Answer%20UN/Ageing%20Care%20Policy%20FINAL%20Khmer.pdf)

* National Disability Strategic Plan 2019-2023
* [Action Plan 2018-2020 of the National Ageing Policy 2017-2030](file:///D:/Reference%20for%20Answer%20UN/Full%20NAP-AP_English%20Translated%20Version%2005-06-2018.pdf)
* [Action Plan 2019-2021 of the National Population Policy 2016-2030](file:///D:/Reference%20for%20Answer%20UN/ផែនការសកម្មភាព%20២០១៩-២០២១%20នៃគោលនយោបាយជាតិប្រជាជន%20២០១៦-២០៣០.pdf)
* [Rattanak 5 Strategic Plan 2019-2023](file:///D:/Reference%20for%20Answer%20UN/ផែនការយុទ្ធសាស្ដ្រនារីរតនៈទី៥%20២០១៩-២០២៣.pdf)
* [Strategic Plan of the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation 2019-2023](file:///D:\Reference%20for%20Answer%20UN\ផែនការយុទ្ធសាស្ដ្រ%20២០១៩-២០២៣របស់ក្រសួងសង្គមកិច្ច%20អតីតយុទ្ធជន%20និងយុវនីតិសម្បទា.pdf)
* [National Action Plan on Prevention of Violence against Women 2019-2023](file:///D:/Reference%20for%20Answer%20UN/ផែនការសកម្មភាពជាតិស្ដីពីការទប់ស្កាត់អំពើហិង្សាលើស្ដ្រី%20២០១៩-២០២៣.pdf)

- [Sub-degree No 103 dated on 29 December 2000 identification](file:///D:/Reference%20for%20Answer%20UN/អនុក្រឹត្យលេខ%20១០៣%20អនក្រ.បក%20ស្ដីពីអត្រានុកូលដ្ឋាន.pdf).

1. **What type of statistical data are collected on older women, if any, and is it disaggregated by age, gender, and other relevant factors? How are older women defined for the purposes of law, policy and data collection?**

According to the 2019 Cambodian Census, older women play an important role in family, economic, social and cultural activities. In terms of literacy, the elderly population (literate) is 75.2%, of which 85.9% are elderly men and 68.1% are elderly women. The level of education of the elderly who have not completed primary school was 523,413, equivalent to 55.2%, of which 47.9% are men and 61.7% are women. The level of education of the elderly population who completed primary education was 216,192, or about 23.8 percent, of which 27.7 percent are men and 16.8 percent are women. The level of education of the elderly population with lower secondary education is 94,821, equivalent to about 1%, of which 1.4% are men and 0.7% are women. The level of education of the elderly population with lower secondary education is 94,821, or about 1%, of which 1.4% are men and 0.7% are women. The post-secondary education population is 85,339, or about 0.9 percent, of which 1.4 percent are men and 0.5 percent are women.

The proportion of older people in the workforce is 60.7 percent, of whom 72.5 percent are men and 52.8 percent are women. The percentage of working-age seniors aged 5 years and over is 422,773 including:

- 0.4% of employers are elderly (16,909 people)

- Elderly employees earn 4.9% (20,715)

- 55.1% of the elderly are self-employed (23,294)

- 39.5% of the elderly working for unpaid families (16,699)

- 0.1% of the elderly working in other sectors (4,227).

**3. Please indicate how older women take part in participatory mechanisms?**

The Royal Government, with arm of the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation as its officials, pays attention to and promotes the well-being of the elderly through:

- Celebrating Cambodia Day of the Elderly and International Day of the Elderly on October 1st annually with the participation from the publics, especially the elderly.

- Established 1646 senior associations in communes / Sangkats throughout the country with a total of 294,440 members, including 153,725 elderly women.

- Disseminate the National Policy on the Elderly 2017-2030 in all 25 capitals and provinces with a total of 4,214 participants, including 862 elderly women.

Economic, Social and cultural realities lived by older women

1. **What are the specific challenges and concerns faced by older women, including on the basis of their accumulated life experience as compared to older men, in enjoying their economic, social and cultural rights (for example in terms of social protection, health, education, work, adequate standard of living, land and property ownership)? Please provided related data and statistics, including disaggregated data, where available.**

Today, older women outnumber older men by 60 percent of the total elderly population. As their life expectancy increases, they face a number of challenges related to economic, social and health factors. Financial insecurity in old age has increased incidence of widowhood disease due to the loss of a husband in a genocidal regime or labor discrimination remaining a challenge and preventing older women from enjoying good health and enjoying the status quo.

A large-scale study on the challenges and concerns of older people in Cambodia is not yet in place. However, according to 2019 study by the Cambodian Organization of the Elderly with the National Institute of Social Affairs, the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation, a large percentage of older women are generally at a higher rate of growth in all studies, such as women. Many are disabled, depressed, abusive and heavily dependent on the economic support of their family members. This group of older women had the highest proportion of needs and challenges, especially higher health risks and more intellectual disabilities (memory loss) and dementia than men. In addition, some older people are living in poor socio-economic conditions because their families are poor and vulnerable to economic and social conditions. Forty-four percent of the elderly sample had a poor degree and 53 percent had not been assessed, but could have high impact under the criteria of level I and level II poverty. Although Cambodia has a social assistance system for poor families, the social assistance system for the elderly in general is still scarce for the elderly.

In particular, another study focusing on the “life experiences and problems of older people in families with migrant children” by the Cambodian Organization of the Elderly in Battambang province in 2008 revealed the many challenges and burdens that older women are facing. Compared with older men. The results show that the workload of the elderly is overwhelming in the family as the children leave the house, leaving the housework and the young children to take care of them.

Older women have Triple Burdens compared to men. In the traditional mindset, there is a division of responsibilities in the family, such as older women working in the home and older men working in the fields or working outside the home to earn a living. However, the women who participated in the study indicated that they also had a responsibility to earn extra income. Therefore, older women are responsible for the care of their children and grandchildren and for the care of their elderly husbands.

1. **What forms of gender-based discrimination and inequality experienced by women throughout the life cycle have a particular impact on the enjoyment of their human rights in older age?**

The Royal Government of Cambodia is committed to resolving violence against women through the ratification and implementation of laws and policy initiatives that focus on reducing violence against women and girls and encouraging women's participation. Full in public life. However, the implementation of laws, policies and regulations is still limited, which leads women to face a number of challenges, including:

- Informal economies, low-income industries that require additional support for capacity and safety considerations in the workplace and social protection.

- Competitiveness of women involved in economic activities is still limited and access to opportunities and resource management is lower than men, including time, information, resources, production, finance and technology.

- Community-made products, especially for women, do not yet meet market demand and are not yet competitive in the domestic and foreign markets.

- While women's activities and time have been actively involved in both paid and family care, this need is needed to consider and share family responsibilities, especially for men in family care. And thinking about life and work balance measures in the workplace.

- Attitudes in society and family continue to divide work by gender, which hinders the development of women's roles in modern society. Women continue to tend to embrace skills and work according to the mindsets and perspectives of society and family, which makes women not choose skills that meet the needs of the labor market and make women who choose to study or work in science, technology, engineering, art, creativity and math are still limited.

- Technology and social media are new trends in the challenge of adversely affecting women's values.

- Discriminatory attitudes and behaviors in the family, workplace and public places continue to affect LGBTI and other vulnerable groups and will continue to hinder the exercise of their rights and potentiality.

- Women and girls are still lack access to information, knowledge, and the full implementation of their rights to reproductive and sexual health, which requires the promotion, strengthening, and expansion of comprehensive measures, especially among women and girls.

- The health of women and girls still needs more attention, especially in remote areas, with a focus on expanding information and understanding of the importance of health care, hygiene and nutrition.

- The need to seek and further expand measures to prevent and address issues related to infectious and non-communicable diseases, especially cervical cancer and breast cancer.

- Women and girls continue to face physical, sexual, emotional, and economic violence that can occur in the home, at work, and in the community, and all forms of violence against women, and girls, regardless of income level, education level and education.

- The mindset of society, which continues to consider work, housing, and family care as obligations of women, has largely prevented women from exercising their rights and exercising their full potential in public affairs and leadership.

1. **Has the covid-19 pandemic affected older women differently than older men and how?**

Covid-19 is one of the deadliest diseases in the recent history of mankind. Kovid-19 has killed tens of thousands of people, including children, women, the elderly and the disabled. In addition, Covid-19 has had a devastating effect on the economy and society as a whole, and the disease continues to linger with high uncertainty, causing some people in both developed and developing countries to fall back, and returning to poverty.

On the other hand, in this situation, the elderly can no longer freely participate in work or economic activities, which leads to a decrease in their income and can lead to poverty. In particular, Covid-19 has serious adverse effects on the health of the elderly, and will affect their lives because each of us as we age, the immune system will be reduced, unlike young people who cannot protect the body to avoid other diseases.

It should also be noted that Covid-19 has a strong impact on people living in poor families, including: 1) children, 2) the elderly, 3) people with disabilities, and 4) people living with HIV. To solve the challenges for the people, especially the people in poor families. The Royal Government of Cambodia has decided to establish and launch a new social assistance program, a special social assistance program aimed at helping the poor with equity (poor 1 and poor 2): “Fund support program for poor and vulnerable families suffered during Covid-19”.

The main purpose of the Royal Government in launching this program is to improve the lives of people living in poverty and affected by Covid-19, including those who have lost their jobs or lost income, and returning into poverty again.

1. **Please share examples of how older women participate in and contribute to economic, social and cultural life, including inter-generational solidarity and support.**

Demography in Cambodia has changed significantly, as the population grows older. Despite the increase in the elderly population, the elderly continues to play an important role in family, economic, social and cultural activities.

* **The involvement in family work**: the elderly act as family heads, educators and caregivers, but these activities are often neglected. First, as caregivers of the elderly, they cared for their grandchildren and their sick children and look after their children’s homes. In this role, the elderly has been found to spend the entire day caring for grandchildren and other family members. Second, as the head of the family, the elderly are found to be active in (1) ensuring the economic well-being of their families. (2) Older people are the ones who initiate ideas and decide on family responsibilities and businesses, such as: arranging weddings for children, using family property, inheriting children and buying materials or property for the family. (3) They have been found to be active in solving family problems. Third, as educators, older people contribute their skills, knowledge and experience to educate their family members, children and grandchildren. The study found that older people who participated in the interviews told how they trained their family members and children on how to deal with work and family problems or in the workplace, as well as business development.
* In addition, older people are found to not only contribute their resources, skills, knowledge and experience to their families, but also to contribute their energy and time to the community in which they live.
* **Contribution to economic work**: Older women are more involved in economic, family and social work, but their contribution is less valued. Most of their work is housework, such as cooking, caring for young grandchildren, raising animals, and so on. These jobs are not paid, but they have greatly reduced family expenses. In addition, older women also contribute to income generation.
* **Contribution to social work**: Despite being busy with household chores, older women have been more involved in community work, such as attending family representative meetings.
* **Contribution to cultural life**: Older women are active in respecting and promoting religious observance. In the context of Buddhism, in addition to the presence of monks in the pagodas, nuns (old women) volunteered to take care of the religious work by participating in the service of monks as well as Buddhists. In each house, most of the older women stay at home to educate their children to be good people for society.
* They (especially for older women who have a good life and do not depend on children) can also influence their decisions regarding marriage choices, important activities in life. According to Khmer etiquette, they (older women) are also recognized as respected people in the home and community. They are powerful in resolving issues in the family and with neighbors.

Forms of discrimination against older women and gender-specific abuses

**8. What forms of structural and systematic discrimination do older women face (for example through laws, policies, traditional and customary practices, etc,)and what measures have been taken to address them?**

The laws and regulations that have been implemented in Cambodia are comprehensive, but their implementation and dissemination are limited.

**9. How do intersectional factors exacerbate the combined effect of ageism and sexism, including the perspective of older LGBTI women, older women with disabilities, older migrant women, older women belonging to indigenous and minority groups, etc?**

There are some factors as follows:

- Awareness of LGBTI rights remains limited

- Traditions and customs that are not recognized as LGBTI in all areas

- Cambodia does not yet have a law on LGBTI

- Awareness of the rights of older women, older women with disabilities, older women, migrants and older women who are indigenous and minority groups is also limited.

**10. What forms does gender-based violence and abuse against older women take and how is such violence prevalent? Please share available data and statistics, including in relation to femicides.**

Please review the answers as described in point 4 of point II above.

**11. Please provide examples of how the life cycle perspective is integrated into policies and programmes to prevent and address gender-based violence against women and girls.**

Please review the answers as described in point 7 of point II above.

**12. Please share information about reporting, accountability, remedy and protective mechanisms available and targeted to older women victims of gender-based violence and discrimination.**

The Royal Government of Cambodia is committed to addressing violence against women through the ratification and implementation of laws and policy initiatives focusing specifically on reducing violence against women and girls and encouraging women to fully participate in public life. The Ministry of Women's Affairs is a national body responsible for promoting the role of women and achieving results through leadership, facilitation and integration of gender equality and gender mainstreaming into policies and programs within ministries and institutions. Relevant of the Royal Government. The Ministry of Women's Affairs directs the implementation and monitoring of two key policy initiatives, 1) The 5th Rattanak Woman Plan 2019-2023 and 2) the National Action Plan on the Prevention of Violence against Women 2019-2023.

**The 5th Rattanak Strategic Plan 2019-2023** has the vision that all citizens have equal rights in accordance with the law, especially women and girls, have personal security and can fully participate in social work, courage and work decisions at all levels and in all areas on an equal basis with men and boys to ensure self-reliance and complete well-being in the family, community and society. The 5th Rattanak Strategic Plan has the following main objectives: 1) Strengthen the capacity of institutions and mechanisms at the national and sub-national levels to integrate gender into the process of formulating and implementing laws, policies, strategic plans, national programs and sectors in all areas equitably and inclusively. 2) Expand programs to change attitudes and social attitudes in promoting gender equality and eliminate forms of discrimination against all women and girls in the family, community and society; National Involvement in Economic Sector and Development, Entrepreneurship and Potential of Women in Economic factor inclusively. 4) Strengthen and expand gender responses in national policies and programs related to education and youth, especially education for women and girls at the higher levels and education that meets social needs, and expand parenting education programs with positive gender response. 5) Expand gender responses in policies, strategic plans and programs related to health, especially to promote the health of women and girls related to nutrition, reproductive health and sexual health; National Strategy for the Prevention of Violence against Women and Girls. 6) Lead and coordinate the implementation and monitoring of action plans and national strategies related to the prevention of violence against women and girls. 7) Promote the participation of women in decision-making classes at all levels and promote equality. Gender in leadership at all levels. 8) Empower women in adapting and building resilience to climate change and gender mainstreaming in policies, development plans and related programs; Public-friendly environment and strengthen the effectiveness of monitoring and evaluation of performance, as well as expanding the mechanism for managing and disseminating information on gender-responsive and inclusiveness. Neary Rattanak 5 Year Plan 2019-2023 focuses on gender mainstreaming as a multi-sectoral strategic strategy and has six sectoral strategies: 1) to increase women's economic empowerment; 2) to improve the education of women and girls; Promoting the health of women and girls 4) Legal protection for women and girls 5) Women in public sector, politics and leadership; and 6) Gender mainstreaming in climate change programs and supported by strategic capacity building and institutional development.

**The National Action Plan for the Prevention of Violence Against Women 2019-2023** is based on the vision of the Rattanak Neary Strategic Plan, which states that Cambodians of both sexes have equal rights before the law and that women should enjoy their personal safety. Thus, they can fully participate in social activities and public decision-making on an equal basis with men and boys, as well as provide economic empowerment to ensure the autonomy and well-being of families and communities. The overall goal of the National Action Plan on the Prevention of Violence Against Women 2019-2023 is to reduce violence against women, including high-risk groups, through the establishment of preventive interventions, increased responsiveness, and increased access to services. With quality and multidisciplinary coordination and collaboration. Four key strategies have been identified as the main strategies to focus on: 1) prevention, 2) legal protection and multidisciplinary services, 3) the development and implementation of laws and policies, and 4) Monitoring and evaluation.