



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
Nation Religion King



**Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Cambodia
to the United Nations Office and other
International Organizations at Geneva**

No: 2023/5/244

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Cambodia to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations at Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and, with reference to the letter dated 20 March 2023 of Ms. Claudia Mahler, Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons, has the honour to attach herewith input from the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation of the Kingdom of Cambodia to the Independent Expert's report on older persons in the context of climate change-induced disasters and building back better.

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Cambodia would be grateful if the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights could convey the said information to its highest destination.

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Cambodia to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations at Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 18 May 2023



Office of the High Commissioner
for Human Rights

Geneva

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**Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans, and Youth Rehabilitation
General Department of Social Service
Department of Elderly and Veterans**

Mandate of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human right by older person

Call for inputs: Older persons in the context of climate change-induced disasters and building back better

Pursuant to the human rights Resolution 51/4 the UN Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons two annual thematic reports to the Human Rights Council and to the General Assembly. In 2023, the Independent Expert will dedicate her thematic report to the 78th session of the General Assembly to the issue of older persons in the context of climate change disasters and building back better.

To inform her report, the Independent Expert wishes to receive written contributions (max. 1,500 words) from relevant stakeholders, including national and local governments, national and international non-government organizations, national human rights institutions, international and regional inter-governments organizations, United Nations agencies and entities, activists, academics and older persons.

The independent the strongly encourages sharing concrete example of good practices for addressing the needs of older persons in preventing, mitigating and responding to climate change-related disasters.

The Independent Expert kindly invites all interested stakeholders to share their views and provide written submissions on the following issues:

- 1. Legal, policy and institutional frameworks:** Is there national legislation on emergency disasters? Does the legislation address the specific needs of older persons? Is there a national plan, policy or strategy to address the prevention, mitigation, and/or response to climates change-related disasters, and does it include older persons? Please provide detailed information and relevant document, if applicable.
 - The Royal Government of Cambodia has set out policies and strategic plans to respond to natural disasters, including: 1) National Population Policy 2016-2030, 2) National Social Protection Policy Framework 2016-2025, 3) National Ageing Policy 2017-2030, 4) National Strategic Development Plan 2019-2023, 5) The National action plan for disaster risk reduction 2019-2023
 - The National Aging Policy 2017-2030, In emergency situations such as natural disasters and civil strife, older persons face the risk of not being adequately covered by rescue and rehabilitation operations. They could be denied assistance and essential supplies. Their special needs relating to mobility and medical attention are often not met. In case of having to move residence, their unwillingness to move combined with

physical difficulties they face in moving, enhances their risk of being left behind in isolation. This leaves them vulnerable to exploitation, abuse, and violence. Evidence gathered from various countries shows that rescue and relief workers have often failed to pay sufficient attention to the older persons. As a result older persons have suffered death and injury more than proportionately during natural disasters.

-The Royal Government of Cambodia has been very vigilant with respect to protecting lives and property of the population in the wake of disasters and has set up a comprehensive institutional mechanism for disaster management at both national and subnational levels, i.e., the National Committee for Disaster Management established by the Royal Decree 1215/1141, dated 24 December 2015, and chaired by Samdech Prime Minister.

2. **Access to information:** How do you raise awareness about existing measures in relation to prevention, mitigation, and response to climate-change related disasters, in the public? How is information about access to essential services (e.g, access to shelters, food security, healthcare, legal assistance, social services) made accessible and available for older persons? Please provide detailed information.

The National Committee for Disaster Management, which is the arm of the Royal Government and relevant ministries and institutions, have prepared action plans as well as prepared food to supply the people affected by the disaster, especially focusing on poor families. In addition, the Economic and Monetary Policy Committee of the Ministry of Economy and Finance has established a food security program aimed at protecting food security for the poor and vulnerable people affected by emergencies. The Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology has disseminated information related to the weather forecasting to the relevant ministries, institutions, the public to increase vigilance to avoid possible accidents, especially local authorities at all levels to be ready to save people from danger. The Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation has provided food and equipment to help flood victims in all province-capital. The Cambodian Red Cross has donated materials and food to flood victims in all capitals and provinces.

3. **Participation:** Are there measures in place to ensure the full and meaningful participation of older person in addressing climate change-related disasters? Please provide detailed information.

The RGC has incorporated the emergency situation into National Policy such as: 1) National Population Policy 2016-2030, 2) National Social Protection Policy Framework 2016-2025, and 3) National Ageing Policy 2017-2030 to address the challenges of the elderly during disaster. Especially, older persons during rescue, relief and rehabilitation operations, should be focus on the elderly because they are the most vulnerable and also the most in needs.

Objective 8.1 of Priority 8 of the National Ageing Policy 2017-2030 ensures efforts made for rescue and rehabilitation and pays appropriate attention to the elderly. Also, Objective 8.2 of Priority 8 of the National Ageing Policy 2017-2030 raises awareness to the elderly of how to be prepared for response in case of emergency.

Article 18 of the Law on Disaster Management (2015) states that high attention is paid to vulnerable groups including elderly persons in disaster or emergency events. Moreover, the National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction 2019-2023 ensures participation of vulnerable groups including elderly people in the national forum for disaster risk reduction and enhance their understanding of and resilience for disaster risks and preparedness, and response to disasters. On the other hand, Emergency Management Plan 2020 includes sub-national mapping for vulnerable groups in villages, communes and districts.

4. **Intersectionality:** How do climate change-related disasters affect specific groups of older persons belonging to national, religious, and linguistic minorities and older

indigenous people, refugees and internally displaced older persons, older persons with disabilities, older persons based in urban and rural areas, among others). Please provide detailed information.

5. **Data:** Is a disaggregated data available at national and local level about the impact of climate change-related disasters on older persons? Is data available on the response to climate change-related disasters, in particular with regard to older persons? If available, please provide figures and such data.
None

6. Please provide examples of **good practices** for addressing the needs of older persons in preventing, mitigating and responding to climate change-related disasters.
The Royal Government of Cambodia has launched a cash social assistance program for vulnerable families affected by the floods on December 10, 2022 and March 10, 2023, providing directly to vulnerable families who have severely affected with the following:

No	Target Beneficiary	Number	Expenses
1	Family	99 169	\$5 805 014.63
2	Family Member	372 859	\$4 365 178.54
3	Kid Age 0-5	43 225	\$506 048.78
4	Person with disability	5 957	\$69 623.42
5	Elderly 60+	57 105	\$668 546.34
6	Total Expense		\$11 414 411.71

Written submission in word format and a maximum of 1,500 words in English, French or Spanish may be addressed to the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons by email to hrc-ie-older-persons@un.org before **1 May 2023**. Early submissions are strongly encouraged. Additional supporting materials, such as reports, academic studies, and other background materials may be annexed to the submission. Unless otherwise indicated in the submission, inputs received will be published on the website of the Independent Expert at the time of the publication of the report.