

# Country WID Profile (Cambodia)

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## Table of Contents

	Page
1. Basic Profiles	
1-1 Socio-Economic Profile.....	1
1-2 Health Profile.....	2
1-3 Education Profile .....	2
2 . General Situation of Women and Government Policy on WID/Gender	
2-1 General Situation of Women in Cambodia.....	3
2-2 Government Policy on WID/Gender.....	5
2-3 National Machinery.....	6
3. Current Situation of Women by Sector	
3-1 Education .....	7
3-2 Health.....	10
3-3 Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries.....	14
3-4 Economic Activities.....	18
4. WID/Gender Projects by Other Donors.....	21
5. WID/Gender Information Sources	
5-1 List of International Organizations and NGOs related to WID/Gender.....	23
5-2 List of Reports and References related to WID/Gender.....	25
6. References .....	29
7. Definitions .....	31

## 1. Basic Profiles

### 1-1 Socio-Economic Profile

Socio-Economic Profile							Ref.
Economic Indicators	GNP/Capita	Growth rate of real GDP		Inflation Rate*	Gini coefficient*		
	252US\$('98)	0%('98)		12%('98)			1,2
Public Sector('99)	Health	Education	Social Welfare	Defense	Others		
Expenditure to sectors	NA	10.3%	7.0%	41.0%	NA		3
Population('98)	Total	% of urban population		Population growth rate			
<div>Total</div>	11.4million	15.7%		2.49%			1,2
<div>Women</div>	5.9million	15.5%		-			1,2
Industry/GDP	Agriculture	Industry(Manufacture/Industry)		Service			
	NA	NA		NA			
Proportion of workers('90)	Agriculture	Industry	Service	Aid/GNP			
<div>Total</div>	78%	4%	18%	%			1
<div>Women</div>							
Labour Indicators	Total No.	Unemployment R.	Minimum wage	Women/Total*			
<div>Total</div>	NA	44.5%	NA	NA			1
<div>Women</div>	NA	54.6%	NA	NA			1
Decision-making	Women/Total			Women/Total			
<div>Member of parliament</div>	12/122			Managers	NA		
Ministries(1995)	2			Technicians	NA		
Deputy ministries('95)	NA						
Law for Women		Year	Details				
Ratification and signature of international law for women				Ratification	Year		
CEDAW					1992		
Policy of WID							
Employment Equality Law			NA				
Governmental organization of WID				Established Year			
National Machinery	Ministry of Women's and Veterans' Affairs			1998			

#### References

- 1) National Institute of Statistics, Ministry of Planning. General Population Census of Cambodia 1998 Final Cnsuse Results. 1999 Phnom Penh.
- 2) UNFPA. Populaton Database. Background Paper for the Country Program Mid Term Review. 1999. Phnom Penh
- 3) Ministry of Planning Royal Govrnment of Cambodia. Cambdia Poverty and Social Sector. 1999 Phnom Penh

\*Refer to 7. Definitions (P. )

## 1-2 Health Profile

Health Profile					Ref.
Life expectancy(1998)	Male 50.3    Female 58.6		Population growth rate	2.49 %('98)	1,2
Expansion of health service	Population /Doctor	3,389	Population/Nurse and Midwife	11,535	1,3
Government expenditure to health ( % of GDP )	NA				
Infant mortality rate(per1,000)*			% of the vaccinated	1-year-old children	
Total	89persons		BCG('90-'95)	78%	2,6
Female	NA		DPT('90-'95)	54%	6
Under-5 mortality rate(per1,000)*			Polio('90-'95)	53%	6
Total	174persons		Measles('90-'95)	53%	6
Family planning	Contraceptive rate('98)	22%	Total fertility rate('99)*	4.11	2
Births attendance rate*	NA		Age at first marriage	NA	
Maternal anemia rate*	NA		% of infants with low birth weight*	17%	6
Maternal mortality rate	500persons per 0.1million				2
Nutrition			Oral rehydration therapy use rate*	%	
Iodine deficiency	households consuming iodized salt 59%		Malnutrition	%	
Community health service					
Access to safe water	urban 60.3 % rural 23.7 %		Access to adequate sanitation	52%	1,3
HIV/AIDS	HIV infected		AIDS cases	Total number	
Statistics( 1999 )	2.4 % of married women		2.40%	140000	2

## 1-3 Education Profile

Education Profile					Ref.
Education system	Basic education (9 years), Primary education ( 6 years)				4
Public expenditure on education	10.3 %(1998)				4
% of GNP(1998)	1.5%				4
Adult literacy rate (1999)	male 79.5 %, female 57.0 %				1
by ethnic group					
Primary education (1999)	Net enrollment ratio		Female ratio of higher education		
Total	78%		education	NA	5
Female	74%		humanities	NA	5
<Educational Issues>			social sciences	NA	
Secondary education('95)	Net enrollment ratio*		natural sciences engineering	NA	
Male	NA		medical	NA	
Female	NA				
<Educational Issues>					
Higher education('95)	Enrollment ratio				
Total	NA				
Female	NA				

### References

- 1) National Institute of Statistics, Ministry of Planning. General Population Census of Cambodia 1998 Final Cnsuse Results. 1999 Phnom Penh
- 2) UNFPA. Populaton Database. Background Paper for the Country Program Mid Term Review. 1999. Phnom Penh
- 3) Department of Health Planning and Information. Health Situation Analysis 1998 and Future Direction for Health Development 1999-2003.
- 4) Department of Planning. Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport. Education in Cambodia. 1999 Phnom Penh
- 5) EMIS Center. Developmet of Planning. Ministry of Education, Youth ond Sport, Education Statistics & Indicators 1998/1999. 1999 Phnom Penh.
- 6) Annuska Derks, Public Investment Program 1996-98, 1997

\*Refer to 7. Definitions (p. )

## 2. General Situation of Woman and Government Policy on WID/Gender

### 2-1 General Situation of Woman

#### General Situation of Woman in Cambodia

- Gender equality is not yet an integral part of Cambodian culture, since Cambodian men and women perpetuate sexist ideals which are reinforced by Buddhist principles, Khmer moral codes of conduct, the hierarchical nature of Khmer society and other factors denoting social status such as age, wealth, family reputation, employment and political position.

After decades of war, political and economic instability and social dislocation, Cambodia is today ruled by a stable coalition government, legitimated by the general elections in 1998. (MWVA 1999b:2) However, the legacy of the past 3 decades has resulted in widespread poverty; massive unemployment and under-employment; and the vulnerability of large groups of the population, especially the rural poor, women, refugees, internally displaced persons, the disabled and children.

The total population is estimated at 11.4 million and the percentage of women is 52%. Despite constituting over half of the registered voting population in 1998, women hold very few key positions in the new government. Only 12 out of 122 representatives in the National Assembly are female, and 8 out of 62 senators are women. There are only two female Ministers, heading the Ministry of Women's and Veteran's Affairs(MWVA) and the Ministry of Culture and Tourism.

The rate of women householders is as high as 19.6% (SSWA, 1995), and load for women in productive activities to earn their living, such as farm work has increased. The majoring of rural poor are the households engaging in agriculture with a large number of children. Also, large parts of the households whose household heads are dead or husband is out for work in urban area and never return. Many women who are not blessed with employment opportunities are absorbed into the sex industry in many cases. The increase in prostitution and the number of women infected with HIV/AIDS has become a severe social problem.

In addition, a survey on domestic violence reports that 16% of the women who are the subjects of the survey are suffering from violence by their spouses (Annuska, 1997). The situation that men dominate the judicial system in Cambodia has sever ramifications for victims of domestic violence or other abuse, while there are various factors such as discrimination against divorced women.

### Cultural and social background

As to religion, about 90% of Cambodians are Buddhists and their social norm is based on the ideas of Buddhism, especially on the idea of transmigration. Women are deemed to be "secular" since they are engaged in economic activities and housework and are considered sometimes to be living at a level which is one rank lower than that of men.

Traditionally, matriarchy has had a strong influence and, in many cases, men live with the women's families after the marriage. It is said, therefore, women were able to obtain the support from relatives and the community for various kinds of work such as production activities like agriculture, etc. and reproduction activities like housework, etc. even after their marriage.

## 2-2 Government Policy on WID/Gender

### Government Policy on WID/Gender

- There are a number of theoretical gender sensitive frameworks in place at the national level.
- However, the government has not yet implemented the UN Convention CEDAW and laws dealing with rape, sexual harassment, domestic violence, prostitution and trafficking of women and young girls are still to be passed and enforced.

#### WID/gender policy

There are a number of theoretical gender sensitive frameworks in place at the national level, such as the Constitution, the RGC's First Five-Year Socio-economic Development Plan(1996-2000), the National Policy for Women(1996), the UN Convention CEDAW, the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action, all of which have been adopted (although not all have been implemented) by the RGC. For example in 1992, the Cambodian Government declared its intention to work towards equal rights for men and women and its opposition to any discrimination, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex, through ratifying the UN Convention CEDAW. However, the government has not yet implemented this Convention.

In February 1999, the MWVA produced its own five year strategic Plan entitled "Neary Rattanak - Women are Precious Gems", in order to strengthen capacity of women in this country. Neary Rattanak emphasizes the promotion and protection of the welfare and rights of women, veterans and their families, in collaboration with government institutions, the private sector, civil society, and the international community (MWVA 1999a). The government is supporting the MWVA in formulating legal, political, economic, and social structures to ensure equality and peace in developing the nation (MWVA 1999a).

## 2-3 National Machinery

### Ministry of the Women's and Veterans' Affairs (MWVA)

National machinery	Ministry of the Women's and Veterans' Affairs (MWVA)
Number of Staff	NA
Budget	0.76% of the national expenditure for 1999
Function	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To play a catalytic role within the government to encourage all line ministries, local government and public institutions to integrate gender equality concerns into their own mandates, policies, and programs</li> <li>2. To collaborate with non-government organizations (NGOs) and civil society in order to ensure that women's agenda and gender equality issues are integrated into the public decision-making processes and to serve as a forum for women in Cambodia</li> <li>3. To guide and coordinate all external assistance to particular areas such as WID or GAD projects/programs</li> </ol>

The MWVA constitutes the national machinery for the advancement of women in Cambodia. This ministry is the result of a long evolution which began as a women's organization during the 1980s, was redefined as a Secretariat of State for Women's Affairs in 1993, promoted to a Ministry of Women's Affairs in 1996, and finally changed in late 1998 to the current Ministry, with a female Minister appointed for the first time. The portfolio of Veterans' Affairs was also added to the Ministry at this time.

This meagre budget reflects the fact that some politicians are yet to be convinced that women can be the keys to the resolution of many of Cambodia's problems. However, the MWVA is determined to do all it can to promote the advancement and empowerment of women, and act as a mechanism for gender sensitization and the transformation of unequal relations between women and men in this country.

### Government Ministries Implementing Women-related Activities

Organization	Purpose/Activity
Ministry of Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To extend the interval of birth</li> <li>• To encourage to have a maternal medical examination</li> <li>• To establish the health care service for mother and children which cover all levels; prefectures, districts and villages, and to ensure enough staffs</li> </ul>
Ministry of Education	To construct the girls' dormitories and to provide a school lunch
Ministry of Rural Development	To make the indigenous people including women participate in decision making for village development



### 3. Current Situation of Women by Sector

#### 3-1 Education

##### Education

- As a result of the existence of the gender gap in educational opportunities, women's literacy rate (61.1%) is considerably lower than that of men (72.9%) (Socio Economic Survey 1999)
- The total enrollment rate in the primary education is 46% for girls and 48% for boys and is considerably lower than the average for low income countries

##### General situation

School reconstruction and replenishment of school supplies and mechanical equipment have been big tasks being faced in the field of education, since many schools were destroyed during the civil war. Furthermore, the lack of teachers who are qualified to teach and the low quality of teachers have remained problems, since 75% of the teachers were killed, it is said, during the Pol Pot regime (SSWA, 1995) and the continuing period when anyone who could read and write were employed as teachers during the subsequent Heng Sam Lin government.

Despite commendable efforts by the government and donor agencies to rehabilitate the education sector over the past decade, Cambodians, especially females, still face enormous difficulties in attaining literacy, completing primary school, and accessing secondary and tertiary education. The lack of schools; teachers; adequate salaries for formal and non-formal educators; teaching materials; and updated teaching methodologies; present major barriers to the majority Cambodians, especially poor rural populations who are often requested to pay informal fees to underpaid teachers to obtain instruction for their children and themselves. (MWVA 1999b)

Having said this, indicate that the overall situation is slowly improving as efforts to reorganize the education system are being undertaken, and media campaigns promoting the value of education, especially for females, are beginning to change people's attitudes.

##### Primary, Secondary and Higher Education

The total enrollment rate in the primary education is 46% for girls and 48% for boys and is considerably lower than the average for low income countries (98% for girls and 112% for boys) (World Bank, 1996). While boys and girls have similar school enrolment rates up until the age of 10, enrolment figures for girls start falling behind those of boys at this point, because girls are often pulled out of school by parents after only a few years of primary school to undertake household chores or assist with the family income. By age 15, the male enrolment

is 50% greater than female enrolment, by age 18, nearly three times higher. At tertiary level, 85% of students are males. Young women who are lucky enough to study at university are usually clustered in humanities and teacher training areas while in the fields of medicine and law, males make up 99% of students.

As a result of the existence of the gender gap in educational opportunities, women's literacy rate (57%) is considerably lower than that of men (79.5%) (National Institute of Statistics, 1998). The following are pointed out as the main reasons for the occurrence of such the gender gap in educational opportunity, namely: 1) The burden of educational expenditures is so heavy that it is difficult for poor families to send all their children to school 2) There exists a traditional belief to give greater priority in boys education 3) Schools are too far and it is difficult to attend and 4) Housework and childcare are socially expected as the role of girls and women. But the gap between male and female enrolment rates is much smaller in households where the mother herself has been educated. This is especially true at the lower and upper secondary levels (UNFPA 1999). This fact highlights the importance of enabling females to access high levels of education.

#### Teachers

The rate of women teachers is 32.5% for primary education and 25.0% in secondary education (SSWA, 1995) and the office of teacher has not been considered as a vocation of women is one of the reasons why the number of women teachers is comparatively few in Cambodia. Since the number of women who actively participate in the society as well as women teachers are few, there are no role models except mothers or close relative women whom girl students should make as models of their life and a situation has been created where there are inevitable limitation in the selection for their future. This trend is conspicuous especially in rural areas.

Insufficient curriculum, lack of textbooks and teaching materials, etc. are also problems. In addition, there are many cases where some teachers impose unofficial "tuition" or engage in side jobs such as private lessons, etc., since they cannot live on the teaching profession only due to the low salaries.

#### Non-formal Education

The problems in formal education have resulted in an enormous need for non-formal education (NFE). More than one million school children aged 6-14 years are not in schools. Many never enroll and the majority of others drop out before attaining a competent literacy

level. Furthermore, more than 1.5 million adults are illiterate. Literacy training, especially for rural women, is desperately needed in order to help eradicate poverty, build an active civil society, and create a flexible, more productive workforce (UNDP/UNESCO 1999).

Various non-formal educational programs implemented by donors (especially ILO, GTZ, APHEDA, UNICEF, and Tabitha), the private sector, and the government (the Education Ministry's Non-formal Department, the Ministry of Social Action and Labor, and the MWVA). The MWVA's literacy training especially targets women. The main objectives are to provide non-formal or adult education at the grass-roots level, to establish childcare services, and to support girl's access the education system.

#### Vocational and Technical Training

There are only 27 women or 1.5% among attendees of the Public Science and Technology Training Schools in 1993 (1,715 persons) (SSWA, 1995). One of the reasons why the percentage of women are low is that the qualification for participating in vocational and technical training requires the completion of primary and secondary education. Furthermore, it has also been pointed out that training subjects are one-sided to technologies which are considered to be suited to men such as automobile and radio repairing, woodworking, electric engineering, etc. is a reason for a few girl students.

Table 1 Female Ratio over Teacher

	1985-86		1991-92		1993-94	
	Total	Female Ratio (%)	Total	Female Ratio (%)	Total	Female Ratio (%)
Primary	1,315,531	45.0	1,371,694	45.0	1,621,685	44.8
Secondary (First term)	297,775	38.0	183,025	30.0	156,572	39.0
Secondary (Second term)	14,020	25.0	53,857	18.5	129,207	33.8
Higher					23,271	11.2

Source: SSWA, 1995a

Table 2 Literacy Rate by Sex & Region (over 7)

	Total	Female	Male
Total	67.0	76.0	59.0
Urban	78.4	85.5	72.2
Rural	65.2	74.5	56.9

Source: National Institute of Statistics, 1996

### 3-2 Health

#### Health

- The existing maternal mortality rates are approximately 500/100,000 and this figure is amongst the highest in East and South East Asia.
- The access to the Health Care Service for the prevention of the risk of childbirth is limited especially in rural areas.
- The proper knowledge for family planning and contraception is not spread widely.
- The spread of HIV/AIDS among the Cambodian women is exacerbated by the growth of the commercial sex trade.

#### Summary

As a result of the breakdown of the health system and hardships endured over the past two decades, Cambodians, particularly rural women, generally have very poor health and nutrition. Average caloric intakes per Cambodian, barely meet the minimum 2,100/day-calorie requirement. Women's poor health predisposes them to other illnesses such as Tuberculosis (TB), sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), and malarial infection. On this last point, research shows that women are 44 times more likely than men to die from malarial infection in this country (Gray 1999; Derks 1997).

Nation-wide, 47% of the population does not have adequate access to health services, with the nearest public clinic to villages being on average three kilometers away (MoP 1999). The cost of medical care represents approximately 30% of family expenditure. In rural areas where 85% of the people live, only 8.6% of the population have access to sanitation, 24% have access to safe drinking water, and 90% rely on traditional fuels as an energy source due to lack of electricity (MWVA 1999b).

#### Child and Maternal Health

The existing maternal mortality rates are approximately 500/100,000, and infant mortality rates are about 89/1,000 per live births respectively (UNFPA 1998). These figures are amongst the highest in East and South East Asia and result from poor living standards; inadequate health services (including lack of contraceptives), food and education; frequent and too close pregnancies; and childbirth complications. Approximately one in every ten Cambodian children die from causes including prematurity, delivery complications, acute respiratory infection, diarrhea, and malaria (UNICEF 1996), while approximately 2,000 women die annually giving birth and 200,000 women suffer severe consequences of obstetrics complications (MWVA 1999b).

Nationally, around 10% of deliveries take place in medical facilities (UNFPA 1999). Most Cambodian women giving birth in village settings are attended by traditional birth attendants who are often not able to cope with delivery complications. Anaemia is thought to be common amongst pregnant and non-pregnant women, and insufficient caloric intake combined with heavy workloads prevent adequate maternal weight gain and result in babies with low birth-weights.

### Family Planning

The total fertility rate in Cambodia is comparatively high at 4.1 persons (UNFPA 1999) but it is thought that this figure will tend to decrease compared with the past. Husbands and wives who limit the number of children due to economic difficulties are increasing lately but women who abort pregnancies which they do not want are increasing in the present situation where family planning has not yet spread.

Furthermore, the fact that so many women die from complications arising from abortions reflects a need for contraception and family planning services. Recent survey data (NIS 1998 cited UNFPA 1999) indicates a contraception prevalence rate of 21.8% amongst married women in 1998, and that the majority of currently married women have never used a contraceptive method.

### AIDS

The alarming spread of HIV/AIDS in Cambodia, exacerbated by the growth of the commercial sex trade, is creating an incredible social and economic burden on the government, communities, households, and individuals, especially women. An estimated 150,000 Cambodians have already contracted the virus in Cambodia, and recent statistics indicate that one in 30 pregnant women, one in 16 soldiers and policemen, and nearly one in two commercial sex workers (CSWs) are HIV positive (UNAIDS/WHO 1998).

The Cambodian cultural norm that condones multiple sexual partners for men within and outside of marriage, coupled with the fact that many married men refuse to wear condoms with their wives and with CSWs, are major factors magnifying the risk of HIV/AIDS transmission. Particularly at risk of infection are the wives and girlfriends of migrating males, fishermen, and soldiers (Gray 1999).

Table 1 HIV/AIDS Prevalence

	Rate
Commercial sex worker	42.6%
Indirect commercial sex worker	19.1%
Through husband (domestic)	2.4%

### Domestic violence

Domestic violence continues to threaten the health of Cambodian women and unfortunately seems to be on the increase (MWVA 1999b). Poverty, unemployment, the rise of prices of basic goods, alcohol abuse, and the reintegration of demobilized soldiers into Cambodia society, are contributing factors to domestic violence.

There are currently no laws addressing domestic violence and legal interventions are limited because spousal abuse is considered an internal family problem. Moreover, gender norms dictate that women should tolerate "bad treatment" and that if violence occurs it is usually because of the woman's unwifely behavior. Divorce is not only discouraged but the process involved in obtaining a divorce presents enormous difficulties for women, such as the pressure by court officials and society to reconcile with the abuser.

Table 2 Index Related to Maternal

Ratio of Pregnant Women who had a Maternal Medical Examination more than once (%)	44
Average No. of Maternal Medical Examination per a Pregnant Woman	1.6
Ratio of Pregnant Women who had a Vaccination for Tetanus more than twice	30
Discovery Ratio of Pregnant Women under High Risk by Medical Examination (%)	5
Registered Delivery Ratio (%)	
1) Delivery at House by Midwife	16
2) Delivery at House by Medical Workers	9
3) In Regional Hospital	2
4) In Prefecture Hospital	3
5) Unregistered	70

Source: National MCH Statistic Report, 1994

Table 3 Cause of Death of Children under 5 (%)

Cause	
Delivery Difficulties	25.0
Premature Baby	23.0
Acute Respiratory Organs Infection	9.7
Diarrhea	6.6
Malaria	5.3
New-born Tetanus	4.9
Others	15.5
Unknown	9.5

*Source: National MCH Statistic Report, 1994*

Table 4 Public Medical Institutions

No. of Hospital	No. of Clinic	No. of Bed	Population per One Bed (person)
198	1,267	9,891	1,000

*Source: Child and Maternal Health in Developing Countries 1996, Ministry of Health*

### 3-3 Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

#### Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

- Agriculture is the most important economic activity in Cambodia, with more than three-quarters of the population engaged in this pursuit - 65 % being women
- It is worried that women who lose access to land are increasing because of the land allocation system and the advancement of the market economy.
- Though many women want to use the small sale financing but only few of them can access to it.

#### Summary

Agriculture is the single most important economic activity in Cambodia, with more than three-quarters of the population engaged in this pursuit - 65 % being women (FAO 1998). Most Cambodian households depend on agriculture and its related sub-sectors of livestock rearing, fisheries and forest exploitation for their living. The predominant crop is rice, grown on 90% of the currently cropped area. Rural households also produce vegetables and tend palm trees for sugar and wine production. In the 20-54 years age group in the rural sector, the female participation rate is very high, with over 80 % of women participating in economic activity (FAO 1998).

As a result of the civil war, approximately 23 % of the rural population lives in female-headed households (UNFPA 1999). The female-headed households are generally the poorest in the village, have smaller land holdings, often depend on hired labor, and have to take on a heavier workload.

#### Agriculture

Ninety percent of the women in rural areas are engaged in farm work (Annuska Derks, 1997) and the role which Cambodian women play in agricultural production is large. Men and women jointly engage in agricultural production in Cambodia and no strict lines are drawn between men and women like in other work allotment, although there is division of work such as plowing of rice fields mainly for men and hulling mainly for women, and they bear the work, even if it is heavy labor, without distinction between men and women if there is shortage of hands. This is considered to be one of the reasons for men and women having considerably equal standing in Cambodia. Furthermore, processing and sales of farm produce in the informal sector is borne by women.

Nearly 70% of rural work volume is borne by women as a result of the decrease in the men's labor force due to the influence of the civil war and both men and women engage in



agricultural wage labor. However, only 1/3 to 1/4 of men's daily wages is paid to women since men's labor has been thought to be heavier than women's labor and this has become one of the reasons for the worsening of the economic situation of rural women. Also, this is the reason creating the severe situation for female householders who are experiencing the shortage of men's labor power.

Although women jointly participate in labor, it does not mean women's labor is properly acknowledged and it is rare for women to positively participate in the decision making of villages. The decision making regarding agricultural production and irrigation, therefore, has begun to be entrusted to men as they left the service, returned to their villages and started to take part again in the work which women had undertaken alone in the past more than 10 years. It is rare, therefore, for women's opinions to be reflected in the installation of production and irrigation systems and, as a result, it is feared that women will be driven to a disadvantageous position in agricultural production.

#### Landownership

In late 1980s, lands was divided in accordance with the number of household members and private ownership was approved in place of the joint ownership of land. Traditionally men and women had right to land equally in Cambodia and there was no gender gap in land succession. However, since the registration of land at the time of land division implemented in the late 1980s was normally conducted in the name of the husband, cases were reported where husbands refused to divide the land at the time of divorce and land was not shared with wives. Furthermore, since the land was divided based on the number of adults, the land area given to women householders was small resulting in limited agricultural production amount. Currently, 95% of widows hold less than 1 hectare of land (Williams 1999).

Although the importance of currency is increasing also in rural areas keeping step with the advancement of the market economy, it is said that there is an increase of farmers who have to dispose of their land because of their liabilities. It is reported that women householders who have no work force on whom they can depend have fallen into such circumstances (SSWA, 1995) and it is worried that women who lose access to land are increasing.

In 1998 an Asian Development Bank (ADB) program for the agriculture sector prompted a re-look at the Land Law produced a Framework for a Revised Cambodian Property Law. A review of the current and proposed Cambodian Land Law by an NGO/IO Land Law Working Group (LLWG) , in November 1998, pointed out a number of problems facing women and

men in areas such as the succession of property. The resulting report states that "the property of surviving spouses (usually women) is poorly protected in [the] Final Draft Land Law" because a number of articles and procedures are unclear, unfair, and discriminatory (Williams 1999).

#### Agriculture Diffusers

There are many constraints in agricultural extension and there are only 4% of total farmers who can receive extension services.

Even though women are actively participating in production, they have not been considered as the subjects of technical training and diffusion and the Ministry of Agriculture has not attached much importance to their involvement with women. Currently, only 20% of extension workers are female (CAAEP 1999) and other female staff are not always deployed to positions for which their qualifications are suitable. However, some of the provincial Agricultural Extension Deputies have recognized the fact that their female extension staff are generally able to work closer, and have better personal communication, with women farmers and farming families, even though male staff generally have higher technical competence.

#### Access to Small Scale Financing

Financing demand is high in rural households for the purchase of fertilizer, agricultural machines and materials, farm animals, etc. Furthermore, rural women are engaging in various economic activities such as food processing, handicraft production, retailing, etc. in addition to agriculture to supplement their incomes. Although there are many women who try to obtain loans for the expansion of these small scale businesses, there also are many cases where they have to depend on local usurers who impose an interest of 20% a month since the banking system has not been developed yet (Annuska, 1997). Although international organizations and NGOs have started assistance in the field of small scale financing, it is implemented only in limited areas and the users of rural small scale financing programs by the 30 main NGOs were only 3.5% of the total rural households as of 1995 (opus citatum). Since daily household finances such as expenses for food, education and medical services are controlled by women, many women also use rural money markets and this accounts for 70% of the total users, and users of 98% of minor scale financing and 67% of small scale financing are women in the case of ACLEDA, the largest NGO which provides small scale financing (opus citatum). As to the present situation of small scale financing, it is also pointed out that there is a considerably big difference in interest rates depending on the financing organization and, although there are sufficient funds, what there is a shortage of is human resources and organizations to operate the funds. The Credit Committee for Rural Development has been founded by the government in

order to solve these problems and strive for coordination among organizations implementing small scale financing related programs. In 1998, Agriculture Development Bank was established and Banking Law was revised and some institutional improvement measures are underway.

Table 1 Study Result for Present Situation of Implementation of Small Scaled Financing Project

No. of Organization of Financing Implementation	28
Total No. of Financing	43,770 persons (over 18 states, 939 villages)
Financing Period	From one month to three years
Monthly Interest	0.83% ~ 6%
Total Finance	40 ~ 10,0000UA\$

*Source:* Catholic Relief Service, 1995

#### Fisheries

Fishery is an important component both in terms of its contribution to the economy as well as the diet of the people in Cambodia. Fish accounts for the main intake of animal protein eaten in the country. Most households have fishing nets and the activity is becoming increasingly popular although fish stocks are dwindling due to environmental changes (FAO 1998).

Fishing is an occupation in which men are actively involved, particularly operations involving heavy physical work. However, women also contribute significantly to almost all fishery activities. Women are often involved in capture and culture fisheries, processing, and marketing, as well as in fisheries education, research, and development (PADEK 1996). Women and children also fish on a smaller scale in canals and small ponds.

#### Forestry

Since the majority of the rural population has no land title, they have little incentive to protect or replant trees. Wood fuels are collected from forested land owned by the state. In rural areas, studies reveal that men, women, and children generally collect firewood for subsistence use through gathering fallen branches, or from trees around the house .

To supply urban markets, men cut down trees and produce charcoal. Women participate in marketing firewood in urban and rural areas where the wood energy trade often forms an additional source of income. Women are also responsible for cooking and are thus more likely than men to suffer from any adverse health impacts from wood energy use. The introduction of fuel-efficient stoves by NGOs in some areas has eased women's labor constraints to a certain extent.

### 3-4 Economic Activities

#### Economic Activities

- The rate of women participation in labor is higher than men, but the rate of women wage workers is only 25% .
- The women participation is remarkable in the textile sector, but many of them hired under the hard conditions such as low payment or long time labor.
- The number of women employees in informal sector is increasing with the introduction of market economy, and the number of women engaged in the sex industry is also increasing.

#### Summary

Cambodia's industrial sector is growing rapidly and the Cambodian Government hopes it will lead the country's growth in the future. In particular, the Government is counting on the expansion of garment factories and the continuing booming of the construction industry (Aafjes and Athreya 1996).

The average growth rate of industrial production has been estimated at 7% per annum over recent years. Industrial sectors contribute about 10% to GDP. The textile sector has shown the largest increase in establishments, doubling each year since 1996, and is currently the country's largest employer, providing more than 74% of all jobs in this sector, particularly to women.

#### Participation in Labor

Women's labor force participation rate is as high as 65.9% and is slightly higher than that for men, 59.0%. Furthermore, the rate of women in the total labor force population is as high as 56% reflecting the high women population, but the rate of women wage workers is only 25% (Annuska Derks, 1997). In fields other than agriculture, the rate of women's engaging in the sales industry is high and 39.1% of the women labor force is engaging in the sales industry especially in the urban area (opus citatum).

#### Employment Labor

According to the Department of Labor Inspection, in October 1999 there were a total of 949 enterprises in the non-textile sector in Phnom Penh, employing a total of 77,565 workers, of which 59,931 (77%) were female. In the textile sector, in Phnom Penh, there were a total of 192 establishments employing a total of 88,171 workers, of which 78,823 (89%) were female.

The growth of the garment factories will be especially important for the future of Cambodian women economically. However, many females, particularly young, single women, are in danger of being exploited through working long, hard hours for very low rates of pay

under unfavorable working conditions and exposed to different forms of discrimination, such as sexual harassment. Furthermore, public nurseries had been located in working places under the previous government, but they were abolished after the start of the new government and, consequently, it has become difficult for women having preschool children to keep on working.

The same wages for the same labor are guaranteed by law but, in actuality, women's wages are considerably lower than those of men excluding a segment of workplaces such as military service, etc. The reasons for this are because both men and women think that men can handle a greater amount of more dangerous and difficult work than women and so on and women's low wages have thus been justified.

#### Informal Sector

More than 3/4 of the women in urban areas are employees in the informal sector (Annuska 1997), and women who did not have opportunities for education and training are participating in the informal sector as a place to earn incomes while reconciling their jobs with housekeeping and childcare by engaging in the sales of food and clothes, etc., sewing, as beauticians, etc., where women traditionally have participated actively. More than half of the employees in the informal sector are spending 90% of their incomes for living expenses (opus citatum) and the labor in the informal sector has become an important measure for the survival of families. However, in actuality, the profit is not so high in comparison with the volume of work in many cases and there are many women who can only earn a minimum level income. There are many women who want, therefore, to obtain investment funds for increasing profits for the above reasons but there are is not enough for saving and opportunities for financing and training are limited. In the women labor force, 59.4% are unpaid family workers and self-employed and this rate goes up to 63% in rural areas (opus citatum).

It is reported that the number of women making a living in the informal sector is increasing because of the deterioration in the employment labor environment and increase in migrant workers but there are many women who are making a living as employees of the sex industry. The number of women engaged in the sex industry which suddenly increased beginning with the UNTAC stationing has increased from 1,500 in 1990 to 17,000 in 1994 and has become a hotbed for giving rise to serious social problems such as the increase in human trafficking and HIV infection. An increase in women street dwellers is also reported.

Table 1 Ratio of Female Workers by Sector &amp; Region (%)

Sector	Total (Male & Female)	Urban	Rural
Agriculture / Forestry	80.6	40.0	89.9
Fishery	1.0	0.8	0.5
Mining	0.1	0.1	0.1
Manufacture	2.2	4.1	1.7
Electricity / Gas / Water Supply	N	N	N
Construction	0.5	0.5	0.1
Wholesale / Retail / Repair	7.1	39.1	5.7
Hotel / Restaurant	0.2	1.1	0.1
Transportation / Communication	1.3	0.5	N
Finance	0.1	0.2	N
Real Estate / Rental	0.3	0.9	0.1
Gvmt. Employee / Military	3.4	4.1	0.2
Education	1.7	3.3	0.9
Medical	0.4	1.6	0.2
Regional / Welfare	0.7	1.2	0.4
Household	0.3	1.9	0.1
International Institution	0.1	0.6	N

Source: National Institute of Statistics, 1997

Table 2 Income by Occupation of Migrant Female Workers

Occupation	Income (US \$)
Employment	
Gvmt. Employee	15-20/month
Waitress	9-50/month
Fishery	1/day
Fabric Manufacturing	10-35/month
Construction	40-45/month
Silk Materials	35-40/month
Washing	65/month
Self-Employment	
Retail	40-70/month
Hand Craft Production	13-37/month
Grape Collection	26/month
Fishery	30/month

Source: Klaassen, 1995

#### 4 WID/Gender Projects by Other Donors

Projects/Programs	Implementing Agency	Donor	Duration	Budget (US\$)	Gender-related Issues
<b>Education</b>					
Non formal education program	Ministry of Education, Others	UNICEF			1) Equipment supply to publish monthly booklet for literate women, Publishing technology transfer 2) Providing initial materials for the household who have own income generating activities such as food processing, livestock raising, sewing etc. 3) Technology transfer for vegetable, fruit and crop production
Equipment for Basic Education	Ministry of Education	ADB	1996～	20,000,000	Producing education related publication and teaching materials in order to promote girl's enrollment in primary, secondary and higher education level
Primary Education Assistance	Ministry of Education, NGO	USAID	1996～2000	2,000,000	Improvement of girl's enrollment rate (detail not decided)
Cluster School Assistance	Ministry of Education	UNICEF	1996～2000	5,690,000	Introducing the measures for improving girl's enrollment rate into each school's Action Plan
<b>Health</b>					
Basic Health Services	Ministry of Health	ADB	1996～	20,000,000	Promotion of safe delivery by providing regional hospitals with human resources and medical equipment, Training of midwives
Disease Prevention and Health Improvement		World Bank	1996～	35,600,000	Child and maternal health, and prevention of AIDS for women
Maternal Health Program	UNICEF	UNICEF			Pre and post natal care, delivery, nutrition, Supporting governmental maternal health measures concerning extension of the interval of birth
Water Supply in Urban Area		ADB	1996～	20,000,000	Improvement of water supply facilities in densely populated areas in the city and the suburbs in order to reduce women's burdens charged of carrying water and administration of water supply
Training and Advocacy on Gender and Population	Ministry of Women's Affairs, NGO	UNFPA	1997～2000	2,500,000	1) Women targeted diffusion of family planning knowledge, 2) Distribution of condom for prevention of AIDS and family planning, 3) Training of women family planning facilitator
Family Planning	National Maternal Health Center	UNFPA			Research on delivery, child and maternal health and family planning. Supporting IEC
Population Education	Ministry of Education, NGO	UNFPA			Introducing the guidance for reproductive health and family planning into secondary education curriculum, and providing with information through NGO
Maternal Health Project	National Maternal Health Center	Japan	1995～2000		Training for obstetrics medical workers and institutional enforcement of center with the aim of reducing maternal mortality rate
<b>Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery</b>					
Improvement in Agricultural Productivity		World Bank	1997～	27,000,000	Promotion of women's participation in all the level of project cycle(planning, formulation and implementation) as well as proper distribution of the benefit gained by the project activities
Agricultural Credit	Ministry of Rural Development	ADB	1997～	10,000,000	Supplying information and a loan for women as a main target group
Water Resource Development		ADB	1996～	550,000	Support for women, who play an important role in agricultural sector, for enabling them to have equal access to water and decision-making for water administration as well as to have an access to agricultural technical extension service and the resources such as fertilizer and the seeds

Projects/Programs	Implementing Agency	Donor	Duration	Budget (US\$)	Gender-related Issues
<b>Economic Activities</b>					
Small Scale Enterprises and Informal Sector	ACLEDA*	UNDP, ILO	1994～		Supplying a loan for poor women to start or expanding their own business
Vocational Training	NGO	ILO			Promoting women's participation in vocational training and micro financing by introducing quarter system
<b>Others</b>					
Improvement of Marketing Network	Ministry of Public Work	ADB	1997～	600,000	Support of women's small commerce through improvement of transportation between the villages and the main market
NGO WID Project Assistance	7NGO	USAID			Financial assistance for the projects such as child and maternal health care and nutrition improvement, prevention of AIDS, distribution of condom and oral contraceptives, vocational training for women, health education for mothers, food aid for widow household
WID Center Assistance	Ministry of Women's Affairs, Others	ADB		30,000,000	Construction of WID Center, vocational training, micro-financing for women, capacity building of Ministry of Women Affairs
NGO Assistance	NGO	USAID	1993～2000	50,000,000	Projects focusing on women in the domain of micro finance, vocational training, health education, water supply etc.
WID Center	Ministry of Women's Affairs	Japan	1996		Construction of three WID Center

\*ACLEDA=Association of Cambodian Local Economic Development Agencies (a local NGO)



## 5 WID/Gender Information Sources

### 5-1 List of International Organizations and NGOs related to WID/Gender

	Name and Specialty	Past Records (Project etc.)	Report and Writing	Contact Address
NGO	Association of Cambodian Local Economic Development Agencies (ACLEDA) Mr. Prak Sokal (Executive Secretary)	Micro Finance		#132, Street 163, Tuol Tumpoung I, Phnom Penh Tel /Fax : 855-23-364619
	AMARA Ms. Ung Yokkhoan	Advocacy and Leadership		Ponleu Khmer Office, Wat Som Peo Meas, Phnom Penh Tel : 015-915306
	Art Association Khmer Women for Development (AAKWD) Ms. Pen Ven (President)	Vocational Training/Health/Human Rights		#23, Street 21, Sangkat Tonle Bassac, Khan Chamkar Mon, Phnom Penh
	Battambang Women's AIDS Project (BWAP) Ms. Khun Kim Sour (Director)	Prevention of AIDS and STDs		#196, Street 3, Group 41, Sangkat Ek Pheab - Battambang or : #122, Street 21, Phnom Penh
	Cambodian Association for Development of Rural Farms (Arun Reah) Ms. Ouch Arrunnavati (Director)	Literacy Education/Water Supply/Domestic Violence		#81, Street 592/330, Sangkat Boeung Kok II, Khan Tuol Kork, Phnom Penh
	Cambodian Midwife Association (CMA) Ms. Nean Ren	Fostering Midwives		#213 ZAE 1, Street 63/310, Phnom Penh Tel : 362698
	Cambodian Association for Assistance to Families and Widows (CAAFW) Mr. Sour Iyong (Director)	Agriculture/Literacy Education/Vocational Training		Thmar Pouk Pagoda, Thmar Pouk District, Battambahg
	Cambodian Christian Women's Association (CCWA) Keo Serey Vuthy	Micro Finance		#54, Street 111, Sangkat Beoung Prolit, Khan Makara, Phnom Penh
	Cambodia Rural Agriculture Development and Democracy (RADD) Ms. Norodom Duong Chan Somaly	Agriculture/Education/Human Rights/Vocational Training		#58, Street 233, Phnom Penh
	Cambodian Women's Development Association (CWDA) Ms. Kien Serey Phal (President)	Micro Finance/Literacy Education/HIV/AIDS Education/Vocational Training		#9, Street 242, Sangkat Beoung Prolit, Khan 7 Makara, Phnom Penh Tel : 364050
	Cambodian Women League for Development (CWLD) Ms. Sam Monika (Director)	Women's Shelter/Human Rights Education/Technical Training/Literacy Education		#55, Street 125, Sankat Veal Vong, Khan 7 Makara, Phnom Penh
	Cambodian Women's League of Human Rights for Development (CWLHRD) Ms. Em Sovannary (President)	Income Generation/Human Rights Education		c/o Ponleu Khmer, Wat Som Peo Meas, Phnom Penh Tel : 364370
	Development Association for Supporting the Homeless, Orphans and Widows Life (DASHOWL)	Agriculture/Human Trafficking/Human Rights/Health Education		Takmao Pagoda, Takmao, Kandal Province
	Help the Widow (HTW) Suan Sareth	Micro Finance/Technical Training		Prek Ta Chrouk Village, Prek Kory Commune, Saang District -
	Human Rights and Community Outreach Project (OUTREACH) Srey Chanphallara (President)	Human Rights/Rural Development		#48, Street 368, Toul Svay Prey I, Khan Chamkar Mon, Phnom Penh Tel : 015-913503
	Indra Devi Association Ms. Dy Ratha (President)	AIDSEducation/Human Trafficking		#31, Street 200, Phnom Penh Tel : 015-918214
	KHEMARA Ms. Korn Chanthan (Acting Director)	Literacy Education/Technical Training/Shelter/Rural Development/Health Activity/Micro Finance		National Road #5, Mithapheap Village, Russey Keo District, Phnom Penh Tel/Fax : 855-23-360134

	Name and Specialty	Past Records (Project etc.)	Report and Writing	Contact Address
	Khmer Women's Association and Community Development (KWACD) Ms. Nop Vanna	Human Rights/Micro Finance/Rice Bank/ Health		#14, Street 8, Lory Village, Takeo Province
	Khmer Women's Voice Center (KWVC) Ms. Koy Veth (Director)	Research Activity/ Education/Law/Media		#22, Street 29, Tonle Bassac, Chamkar Mon, Phnom Penh Tel : 855-23-362450 Fax : 855-23-721032
	Kratie Women's Welfare Association (KWWA) Ms. Mous Thy (President)	Literacy Education/Micro Finance/Health Service		Sresdao Village, Au Russey Commune, Kratie District, Kratie Province
	Meada Khmer Development Organization (MKD) Ms. Tep Savry (President)	Health Education		#63, Samdech Sotheasor Blvd, Sangkat Tonle Basac, Khan Chamkar Mon, Phnom Penh Tel : 855-23-426000/1 Fax : 855-23-426003
	Mother's Love Association (ML) Ms. Nou Sambo (President)	Basic Education/Saving Promotion		Mkak Village, Bati District, Takeo Province
	Poor Khmer Families for Development Association (PKFDA) Mr. Chea Mony (Director)	Agriculture Finance/ Technical Training/ Education/AIDS/ Family Planning		#35 A, Street 418, Group 22, Sangkat Tuol Tompong, Khan Chamkar Mon, Phnom Penh
	SABORAS Mr. Ok Kung (President)	Micro Finance/Technical Training/Agriculture • Environment		Wat Romduol, Battambang City, Battambang Province
	SAMAKEE Mr. Lao Sunly (Program Director)	Micro Finance/Food Production/Water Supply /Health Education/ Family Planning/ AIDSEducation		Svay Teap District, Svay Rieng Province
	Save the Mother and Children(SMC) Am Saron	Hygiene Education/ Education		Chheang Toat Village, Sopy Commune, Baty District, Takeo Province
	TABITHA Janne Ritskes	Micro Project/Micro Finance		#26, Street 294, Sangkat Boueng Keng Kang, Phnom Penh P.O.Box : 2361
	Women's Association of Cambodia (WAC) Ms. Chhouk Chhin (President)	Micro Finance/Water Supply/Family Planning		#23, Street 47, Sangkat Srah Chak, Phnom Penh TEL : 360192
	Women Development Association (WDA) Ms. Yin Alay	Health/Micro Finance/ Income Generation		#130, Street 507, Group 25, Phum 4, Sangkat Phsar Dem Tkov, Khan Chamkar Mon, Phnom Penh
	Women for Prosperity (WFP) Ms. Pok Nanda (Executive Director)	Leadership Training		#19, Street 163, Sangkat Veal Vong, Khan 7 Makara, Phnom Penh Tel : 015-917544
	Women's Media Center of Cambodia (WMC) Ms. Tive Sarayeth (Co-Director)	Media Advocacy		#64, Street 111, Sangkat Boueng Pra Let, Khan 7 Makara, Phnom Penh Tel : 855-23-364882
	Women's Organization for Modern Economy and Nursing (WOMEN)	Economic Activity		#113 E2, Street 136, Sangkat Phsar Thmey II, Phnom Penh
	Women Rights for Development Association (WRDA) Mr. Pouy Boeri (Chief WRDA)	Agriculture Finance/ Health Education/Human Rights Education		#50, Group 6, Chamrounphal Village, Boeung Tumpoun, Phnom Penh
	Women Service Organization (WOSO) Oung Dara (Manager)	Rice Bank/Health		Kong Noy Village, Kong Noy Commune, Kandal Province
<b>Others</b>	Cooperation Committee for Cambodia	Information Center		#35, Street 178, Phsar Thmey III, Khan Daun Penh, Phnom Penh Tel.855-23-426009
	Sectoral WID Group Ms. Valerie Taton	WID/Gender Information		c/o CCC Tel.015-832315

## 5-2 List of Report and References related to WID/Gender

Title	Author	Year	Available at
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<i>Khmer Village Women in Cambodia : a Happy Balance</i> , in 'Many Sisters'	Ebihara, May	1997	FP, New York
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<i>Poverty and Female Resources : A Situation Analysis of Poverty, Gender and Development</i>	Vijghen, John	1995	CRD, Cambodia
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## 7. Definition

### <Technical Terms>

#### Gender

Analytical concept to clarify the social role of men and women and interrelation between them. Sex (biological) is basically impossible to change, while gender implying the role of men and women and their interrelationship is likely to change according to social notion and sense of values.

#### Informal sector

Part of economy consisting of small competitive individual or family firms listed in the labor indicators. According to the definition of ILO, those engaged in this sector have simple technology, insufficient amount of capital, unidentified business location, minimum number of employees (or none of them), lack of legality and registration, and no capability of bookkeeping.

#### WID (Women in Development)

Concept of development incorporating women's participation into development processes, taking it into account that women are active agents and beneficiaries of development.

#### Reproductive health/rights

Health/Rights concerning sex and reproduction. To be able to live safe and satisfied sex life, and to have freedom to decide whether, when and how many children to deliver.

#### National machinery

Administrative organization to promote equal participation between men and women, and to implement and strengthen policies related to women, and to supplement organization for women.

#### Empowerment

To empower individuals or groups in political, economical and social sense

#### Affirmative action

Prioritized positive measure to promptly correct the difference, in the case that discriminated groups are placed in extremely unequal conditions to other groups, due to the discrimination accumulated in the past

#### Access and control

Access is to be able to use resources and services for the economic activity, or to have a right to exercise them. Control is a right to decide how to manage resources and services or to own them.

#### Reproductive activity

Activity to "reproduce for the next generation" including to give a birth and raise the children, and to sustain the daily life, for instance, washing and cooking

### <Indicators>

#### Inflation rate

Instead, GDP deflator is used.

#### Gini coefficient

Aggregate numerical measure of income inequality ranging from 0 to 1. 0 means perfect equality, and 1 perfect inequality. Larger than 0.4 are supposed to be high inequality.

#### Percentage of Women's Income

There are no appropriate data comparable to each country. UNDP works out that the women's income is 75% of men's in non-agricultural sector.

#### Total fertility rate

Average number of children whom a woman delivers in all her life

#### Under-one mortality rate

Annual number of infants who die among 1,000 newborn babies within 1 year after the birth

#### Under-five mortality rate

Annual number of infants who die 1,000 newborn babies within 5 years after the birth

Maternal mortality rate  
Annual number of mothers who die among 100,000 cases of delivery because of

Percentage of births attended by trained health personnel  
The rate of births with the help of doctors, nurses, midwives, trained health personnel, or trained traditional midwives

Percentage of infants with low birth weight  
The rate of newborn children of which the birth weight is less than 2,500 grams

Oral Rehydration Therapy (ORT) use rate  
The rate of using oral rehydrate salt or substitute solution for under-five infants having diarrhea

Enrolment ratio of primary and secondary school  
Total enrolment ratio (or gross enrolment ratio) is the rate of pupils going to school with no respect to school age against population at the school age. Net enrolment ratio is the rate of pupils going to school at the school age against the people at the school age.