Violence Against Women

In 2005, 64% of participants in a national survey were aware of a husband who physically abuses his wife. In 2009, this has decreased to 53%, which may show a decline of domestic violence.

The percentage of women members in the Senate has been stable, standing at 14.75% since 1999. The proportion of women elected as members of parliament slightly decreased from 21.16% in 2008 to 20.32% in 2013.

The Royal Government of Cambodia intends to increase the number of women in leadership positions through incentives and by appointing leaders in every public institution.

The percentage of women in the judiciary increased slightly in 2013. There are 13.9% Women Judges, 10.2% Women Prosecutors and women constitute 22.1% of Court Clerks.

The law on the Prevention of Domestic Violence and the Protection of the Victims was adopted in 2005. 96% of men consider the law very helpful, 98% of women also agree.

Population / Household

Between 2008 and 2013, the population of Cambodia increased by 1.3 million persons, of which urban areas grew by 0.5 million and rural areas by 0.8 million. There are slightly more women than men in Cambodia.

This leaflet illustrates important statistical information about women and men in Cambodia. The information is mainly based on national census, surveys and data from publications released by the Royal Government, International Organizations and NGOs.

Key Gender Statistics in Cambodia 
(As of January 2014)

A comparison of the population pyramids for 2008 and 2013 shows a consistent pattern in the age distribution. The decline in the proportion of population in the age group 30-34 in 2008 and the age group 35-39 may be attributed to the combined effect of low fertility, and high mortality of those born during the Khmer Rouge period.

Population Pyramid, Census 2008 (shaded) and CIPS (2013)

Approximately 22.4% of all households are headed by women in 2013. Those female-headed households with no adult men and several dependents mostly are the poorest of the poor.

Number and Percentage of Households Headed by Gender in (1998-2013)

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Population by Urban-Rural Area and Gender (2008-2013)

(No. thousand)

Area Population 2008 Population 2013

Women Men Both Sexes Women Men Both Sexes

Urban

1,356 (35.2)% 2,614 (100%) 3,970 (100%) 1,527 (48.6%) 1,744 (100%)

Rural

5,521 (51.2%) 10,782 (100%) 16,303 (100%) 5,594 (51.5%) 5,924 (100%)

Total

6,877 (48.6%) 13,396 (100%) 20,263 (100%) 7,121 (46.9%) 7,668 (100%)

Women in the National Legislature (1993-2013)

Women: 90
Men: 88

Women in Senior Positions in Government (1993-2013)

Women: 82
Men: 80


Women: 26
Men: 24

Number of Capital/Provincial Council Members of Municipal, District and Khan Councils (2009-2013)

Women: 105 (18% per)
Men: 925 (136 per)

Total: 1,031

Women in Commune Councils (2002-2012)

Total Women Total Men Total Women Total Men

2002 11,216 1,054 1,621 1,421 42 1,621 86 (9.5%)

2007 11,353 1,717 1,621 1,421 67 1,621 151 (8.5%)

2012 11,459 2,039 1,623 1,421 95 (8.5%)

Source: Ministry of Public Function (As of 31 December, 2013)
Marital status is an important factor in population dynamics as it affects fertility, mortality and migration. The proportion of never married and married men is higher than those of women. The opposite trend is noticed in each of the categories widowed, divorced and separated.

The proportion of female teachers is lower than that of male for all educational levels, especially low and higher levels. However, the proportion of female teachers significantly increased in 2013.

The overall labour force participation rate in Cambodia has increased by four percent during 2008-2013. In case of men, the percentage increased by 4.5% and is higher than that for women, which is 2.8%.

The proportion of labour force in the agricultural sector has continued to decline in 2008-2013. The decline is higher in the case of women. At the same time, the proportion in the industrial and services sector has increased. This confirms that concentration of workers in the agricultural sector is gradually declining and employment is getting diversified.

The proportion of women in the informal economy is higher than men. 50% of men are own account workers. In the case of women there are mostly unpaid family workers (33.3%).

More than 50% of Cambodians are employed as skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers. Barely twice as many women than men are services or sales workers.

In 2010 the maternal mortality rate in Cambodia decreased from 472 cases in 2005 to 206 cases in 2010. The under-five mortality rate also decreased to 94 cases in 2010.

The overall school dropout rate of both women and men in rural areas is higher than in urban areas. At the secondary level (grades 7-12) those rates increase rapidly.

The average life expectancy for women is five years longer than that for men (2011). Life expectancy for both women and men decreased between 2008 and 2011.

Almost all Cambodian adults have heard of HIV and AIDS, but knowledge of prevention is low. 75% of women and 80% of men know that the risk of getting HIV can be reduced by using condoms and limiting sexual intercourse to one partner.