



Kingdom of Cambodia
Official Religion: King



PLATFORM FOR ACTION
Cambodia
2005-2015



MINISTRY OF WOMEN'S AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. INTRODUCTION	1
II. THE CURRENT SITUATION OF WOMEN IN CAMBODIA.....	3
III. THE NATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION	6
IV. BUDGET ALLOCATED	8
V. NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND PROGRAMMES IN AREAS OF CRITICAL CONCERN	9
VI. ADVANCEMENTS IN LEGISLATION.....	10
VII. NATIONAL MECHANISM TO FOLLOW UP THE BEIJING PLATFORM FOR ACTION.....	11
VIII. LINKAGES WITH CIVIL SOCIETY	12
IX. GLOBALIZATION AND THE EMERGING CHALLENGES FOR WOMEN IN CAMBODIA	12
X. COMMITMENT FOR FURTHER ACTION.....	18
XI. CONCLUSION.....	26

ANNEX-I: REFERENCES

changed the structure of the country dramatically, and lead to untold suffering, in particular during the Khmer Rouge regime (1975-79). The regime caused the deaths of the Cambodian people through a reign of terror during which their

human rights were totally stripped.

I. Introduction

1. The history of the last two decades in Cambodia is a history of suffering. The chronic state of war took its toll on the lives of the Cambodian people. The totalitarian regime of the Khmer Rouge caused the deaths of the Cambodian people.

The signing of the Paris Peace Accords on 23 October 1991 between the parties to the conflict in Cambodia, and the subsequent adoption of the Paris Peace Accords of 23 October 1991, and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) on 27 September 1992, are milestones in the history of Cambodia.

... the government has adopted the principles of the Paris Peace Accords of 23 October 1991, and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) on 27 September 1992, and has taken steps to return to Cambodian women what they have lost and providing guaranteed protection of their rights as stipulated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

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2. Following general elections on 23-28 May 1993 under the sponsorship and monitoring of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), the National Assembly was elected with 120 members from four winning parties. The Constitutional Assembly drafted the Constitution, the supreme law of the Kingdom of Cambodia. The Constitution was promulgated on 21 September 1993.

The Constitution of the Kingdom of Cambodia stipulated the protection of women's rights.

The 1993 Constitution reflects the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). The 1993 Constitution stipulates that the State shall protect and promote the rights of women and ensure their equality with men. The Constitution also stipulates that the State shall take measures to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and to promote their development. The Constitution also stipulates that the State shall take measures to protect and promote the rights of women and ensure their equality with men.

The protection and promotion of women's rights are the responsibility of the Government and also receive priority attention from international organizations and the Office of the High Commissioner on Cambodia, which strongly supports and closely monitors the situation in Cambodia. All of them have participated actively to demonstrate their solidarity with the Cambodian people in the elimination of all forms of discrimination and the promotion of the status of women.

The Ministry of the Royal Palace created a specific national mechanism, the Secretariat of State for Women's Affairs, in 1996. In view of the importance of its functions related to the development of women and gender equality, the Secretariat was upgraded to the Ministry of Women's Affairs in 1998. In 1998 elections, the Ministry's mandate was redefined and expanded, and the Ministry of Women's and Veterans' Affairs (MoWVA) was created. MoWVA plays a leading role in the development of women to attain true equality with men, and is responsible for the national policy on women with the following aims:

... to ensure the equal participation of the people of Cambodia in all fields including politics, economy, society and culture;

... to ensure the equal participation of women in all spheres of the society;

... to ensure the equal participation of women in rural areas as well as in urban areas.

7. In addition to the National Assembly Commission on Human Rights and to Receive the Cambodian Human Rights Committee also contributes actively to the equality of women before the law and promotion of women's human rights

8. In Cambodia women represent the majority of the labor force (55.7%) in the socially important for the economic and social development of the nation now and in the future.

19. To promote the rights and status of women in accordance to international standards, Royal Government has taken measures including the following:

- designated the MoWVA as responsible for facilitating the advancement and participation of women in all sectors;
 - closely collaborated with UNICEF to develop a 2000 based on international conventions and the
 - organized a regional conference on domestic UNICEF with the participation of more than 200
 - convened a national conference on National Po the Prime Minister participated;
- an for women and children 1996-
on of the Kingdom;
from 15-17 December 1995 by
om the regions;
Women on 26 May 1995 in which
ational women's Day as a national holiday. The day is
d a unity throughout the country with active participation and support from
the international community;
200 Cambodian women as representatives on the national delegation to the
Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in September 1995.

10. In Beijing, it was agreed that women worldwide face substantial barriers to full equal advancement and that "women's empowerment and their full participation of the equality in all spheres of society, including participation in the decision-making process, access to power, are fundamental for the advancement of equality, development and progress. In order to achieve these goals, the Platform for Action (PFA) established a set of that could lead to fundamental positive changes in the status of women. The PFA focuses on areas of global concern for women such as the burden of poverty, unequal access to inadequate health care, unequal access and inadequate education, inequality in economic structures, violence against women, effects of armed and other conflicts, unequal decision-making, inadequate protection of human rights, stereotyping in the discrimination against girls, and gender inequality in the management of resources. The noted that success in improving the status of women in these sectors requires a commitment on the part of Governments, international organizations and institutional levels. The year 2000 was set as the time for global review of the progress in implementing the agreed actions.

Following the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, the Royal Government the international and human rights organizations widely disseminated information about PFA through television, radio, and print media. The Royal Government delegated this role to MoWVA to cooperate with other concerned institutions to implement the PFA.

For the promotion of women in all sectors, as well as to assist women's leadership and participation in the national development process, various seminars and conferences follow.

- National Conferences on Gender and Development
- Women in Leadership and Good Governance

These activities were aimed at providing women at all levels with broad knowledge on their rights and freedoms as well as ensuring the implementation of the rights of women. Although the Royal Government and human rights organizations have addressed discrimination against women, success is still limited.

12. With financial support from the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and technical support from the inter-ministerial committee of the Council of Ministers and the Cambodian Human Rights Committee, MoWVA prepared this report for the United Nations General Assembly in New York in June 2000, five years after the Conférence. This national report describes the priorities identified, the progress and challenges faced by the Royal Government in promoting and protecting women's rights. The report also outlines the steps that the Royal Government has taken to improve the status of women under a National Five-Year Strategic Plan, *Yearly Rattanak: Women Are Precious Gems*, as a mechanism for implementation and monitoring.

1. The Current Situation of Women in Cambodia

The legacy of war in the past has left tremendous burdens on the people of Cambodia. Women and children have been the most severely affected. In rural areas, the contribution and transport system, power and access to drinking water, food security and adequate nutrition are addressed. Especially in rural areas, facilities, sanitation and health care are scarcely available.

1.1. Except in the youngest age groups, 25.7% of the population are widows, divorced or separated, with a high percentage of them increasing the risk of falling into poverty.

2. There is an imbalance in the number of households headed by women. The number of dependent relations is high.

1.2. The majority of the population, live and work in rural areas. Within this group, women constitute 31.1% of the rural labour force, compared with 71.7% of rural men who work in agriculture. Little increase in agricultural production has been achieved (3.2 million tons of rice in 1998 vs. 3.4 million tons in 1997), particularly in Cambodia.

3. The majority of Cambodian women in rural areas work in agriculture. Little increase in agricultural production has been achieved (3.2 million tons of rice in 1998 vs. 3.4 million tons in 1997), particularly in Cambodia.

1.3. Women, who constitute the only caregivers in the family, face an overwhelming task. Within families, social norms act as a multiplier of distress, and some female partners become easy victims of abuse and violence.

For a society having suffered such tremendous loss of human resources, preserving the cultural heritage becomes an imperative and tremendous efforts have been made to do that in recent years. However, most of the old cultural traditional beliefs regarding gender relationships tend to restrain women's behavior. Tradition plays a significant role in perpetuating gender disparity. Old traditions, customs and life styles have long set a pattern of discriminatory attitudes against women. These traditions and old beliefs remain until this day have yet to be improved. Traditions and beliefs have created gender disparities in the following areas:

education. Many of them have achieved high education. Many of them have achieved high education. Many of them have achieved high education.

- There is some discrimination against daughters such as the neglect of their education. Many Cambodian families believe that promoting girls' education would delay their marriages since daughters would carry out housework and perform work at home and work outside such as in the garment industry and culture are highly valued.

Cambodian girls enter the work force at a younger age than boys do. This has an impact on their future and their role within the society as a whole. In Cambodia, despite the prohibition in the Law on Marriage, compliance to parent's wishes is traditionally the husband. Polygamy is prohibited according to the law. Divorce is legal, but husbands can obtain separation simply by abandoning their wives and children without having to bear any responsibilities. Child marriage is still valid given by traditional views to single women, orphan girls, disabled women or women who easily lose their self-esteem. Traditions have been replaced by acquiescence to family law, but these views are common.

- Due to their limited education, women are often employed in low-paying jobs.
- Forced marriages are still common.
- Marriage and Family Law is still replaced by acquiescence to family law, but these views are common.

troublesome and difficult experience for women, while men are not. Women who are marginalized by their situation in prostitution mean that they can be forced to obey their husbands even if they do not want to.

18. Divorce is legal, but husbands can obtain separation simply by abandoning their wives and children without having to bear any responsibilities. Child marriage is still valid given by traditional views to single women, orphan girls, disabled women or women who easily lose their self-esteem. Traditions have been replaced by acquiescence to family law, but these views are common.

of the decision making structure, political parties have made various efforts to include women in the last five years. In fact, the increase of the representation of women in the legislative branch, the executive branch and the courts is as follows:

19. Even though women are still underrepresented in implementing the PFA, the Royal Government has made various efforts to include women in the last five years.

At the National Assembly, out of 122 representatives in the National Assembly, 12 are women in the second legislature, compared to 5 women among 120 members in the first legislature.

At the Senate, a legislative body created during this second legislature, 8 women are members.

The Executive Branch

- Out of 22 ministers, female ministers head two ministries compared to none in the first mandate.
- Out of 50 Secretaries of State, four are women compared to none in the first mandate.
- Out of 127 Under-secretaries of State, 7 are women and 4 are appointed within the Ministry of Women's and Veterans' Affairs compared to 5 in the first mandate. 2 of them were at the Ministry of Women's Affairs.

His Majesty and the King, two women are represented, one as an advisor to the King and the other as a member of the Council of the Royal Palace.

14 women also serve as advisors to the Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister, and the Presidents of the National Assembly and the Senate. They have the ranks of Ministers, Secretaries of State and Under Secretaries of State, Deputy Director-Generals and Director Generals of various departments, compared to 0 in the first mandate.

Now, for the first time in the history of Cambodia, a woman holds the position of Chief Justice of the Court of Appeal.

- Out of the 24 provinces and municipalities in the country, there are no female governors, one woman is deputy governor out of 71. At the district and commune levels, female representatives are now less than 2%.

- *Police and Military Services*

force. In 1985, 244 women served in the police force. A small number of women serve in the military.

Gender inequality within the executive and legislature also affect the situation in other sectors. Female teachers number lower than 30% and the percentage decreases dramatically at the upper education level. Among other professions—medicine, architecture and engineering.

25. Three months after its new mandate was defined, MoWVA developed the National Five-Year Strategic Plan (1999-2003), *Neary Rattanak - Women are Precious Gems*. The Five-Year Strategic Plan was endorsed by the Royal Government in 1999 and officially presented to the Donor Consultative Group meeting in February 1999. *Neary Rattanak* elaborates a nation-wide effort to examine the status and rights of women and the means by which to bring women into the decision-making process at all levels. It identifies the issues which

need to be addressed, tests of capacity, training, within the Ministry's existing policies and developmental approaches required to meet the commitments made at the Beijing Platform for Action. The Strategic Management Review, 2000, Planning, Reproductive and Sexual Health, Information and Communication, Family and Economic Development, and Social Services.

The primary objective of *Neary Rattanak* is to equip the MoWVA to incorporate gender concerns and principles into policy formulation processes with due regard for equity and justice and quality of life for all citizens of Cambodia. The initial phase of *Neary Rattanak* was evaluated in terms of outputs and gender Ministry Workshop on Reflecting Together and Advancing the Agenda

was adopted, the MoWVA developed a four-year framework

programme to implement the mandate of the Ministry under the Five-Year Strategic Plan. The programme, developed in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme, has the following goals:

- enhance the capacity of the Ministry for policy formulation, coordination, and monitoring at the central level and provincial departments, as well as training of designated staff

- promote the rights of women and necessary to uphold these rights, legal advice and counseling services for the rights of women, and capacity development

- develop a system of information and a resource center, to address not only economic development and increase component includes establishing

- initially, develop a programme for community services, in small and medium-size enterprises, women's voluntary

27. Regarding the first project above (institutional strengthening), MoWVA began operating with a modified organizational structure aimed at increasing effectiveness and optimizing utilization of resources. In September 1999, the new structure (a staff of 1200 officers, covering the whole country) was approved by the Council of Ministers and subsequently went into operation. In May 2000, a comprehensive program to further strengthen and rationalize the operations of MoWVA was launched with international donor support. The

third project (information) above began in 1999, and the second (legal protection) and fourth (community services) are expected to begin in late 2000. Strategically planning a structure to

address the long-term imbalance from prior years, inter-ministerial coordination, and long-term

perspectives, has resulted in interest by

inter-ministerial coordination, and long-term perspectives, has resulted in interest by

28. In keeping with its responsibility to mainstream gender throughout the government and other institutions, MoWVA's programs are integrated with national policies, and are conducted in cooperation with the other institutions. The main collaboration has been with the Ministry for Education, Youth and Sport, in order to implement non-formal adult education, girls' access to and retention in the education system, and childcare programmes. Cooperation is also close with the Ministry of Health and the National AIDS Authority, in order to implement programs and interventions that take account of gender. In addition, the MoWVA participates in defining policies regarding women's issues with the Ministries of Justice, Interior, Information, Tourism, Planning, Rural Development, Agriculture, and Forestry. For example, MoWVA collaborates with the Ministry of Justice in the investigation and prosecution of cases of violence against women by the Ministry of Interior and the National Committee against Trafficking in Women and Children. MoWVA also collaborates with the Inter-Ministerial Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, in close cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, in conducting a national information campaign against domestic violence at the village and community levels.

29. MoWVA

MoWVA has a National Committee against Trafficking in Women and Children, which includes other concerned ministries and the Inter-Ministerial Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women. The MoWVA also chairs the National Human Rights Report. MoWVA is conducting a national information campaign against domestic violence at the village and community levels.

IV. Budget Allocated

30. Budget allocations for ministries mainly serve to cover the wages of civil servants rather than to fund the implementation of activities. Therefore while the whole of MoWVA, as a relatively small ministry, receives 4.4% of the national budget, only 0.76% of the national public expenditure is directed towards MoWVA's mandate concerning the advancement of women during the financial year 1999. Since the new mandate now includes veterans' affairs, most of MoWVA's funds and resources provide for veterans' pensions.

31. Data regarding the public expenditure allocation needs to be broken down into historical periods. After five years of economic successes, in 1994-96, when economic growth reached 7.6%, inflation and the budget deficit were under control and stable domestic provisions in 1997 and the regional economic crisis served a positive trend. Inflation grew to 12% in 1998. The currency lost 9% of its value and a deficit reappeared and economic growth went down. In 1999 was a year of recovery. Political stability catalyzed investments and economic growth resumed in all sectors. Taxation increased domestic revenues, and the crackdown on illegal logging provided new financial inputs. The economic trend is paralleled by the security trend. After years of insecurity, public expenditure is expected to increase in the future, this might temporarily

V. National Priorities and Programmes in Areas of Gender Concern

33. As mentioned in national policies, *Neary Rattanak* gives

- 1) Women's Health
- 2) Education

Women's legal protection

37. Women are currently easy targets of trafficking and the current situation necessitates immediate actions. A major project to prevent the trafficking of women and children was launched in March 2000 by various agencies, policy and advocacy, and dissemination of information, and will be implemented in close cooperation with concerned ministries, international organizations and national NGOs. The Royal Government is paying close attention to the implementation of the 1996 *Law on the Suppression of Kidnapping and Trafficking of Human Beings and Exploitation of Human Beings* that is aimed at protecting women from becoming victims of trafficking. The MoWVA and a number of women's NGOs are assisting women victims of trafficking and sexual exploitation by filing complaints with the courts and providing victims with legal representation to assist them in legal proceedings. MoWVA plays an increasingly important role in advocating for investigation and prosecution of cases involving violence against women.

VI. Advancements in Legislation

38. The Constitution of the Kingdom of Cambodia guarantees equal rights for both men and

VIII. Linkages with Civil

46. The Royal Government has... the standards of living of the... income. Rural development... of Cambodian Local Economic... Government is actively seeking... As the... advance

with international and local organizations to increase... providing vocational skills training to improve their... programmes have been implemented by the Association... ment Agencies (ACLEDA). In addition... studies and research... and developing interventions to assist victims...

machinery, MoWVA cooperates... at the grassroots level as well... the majority. Most of the programmes promoted by... in planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation... and preparation... specific programmes such as the... of... for... consultative bodies sporadically invited to give... as full partners in developing strategies. This helps create... policies and programmes.

cooperation between MoWVA and NGOs was the convening of First... Gender and Development... of the Beijing PFA. Over three days, delegates from NGOs... and women's groups, representing the private sector in Cambodia, made... and elaborated areas of concern to the status of... Cambodia at the beginning of its... for further actions. They represent... exhibiting...

and the Emerging Challenges for Women in Cambodia

The opening up of Cambodia... and international... for Cambodia's recovery and well-being... challenges that come with stability and economic growth... impact on women. Extern...

the country in 1989, has... population. Some segments... live below the... by only 1.7%... and depend on... at the same rate...

risk of poverty... population disabled, returnees, single women and widows face an increas...

47. One result of... National Cor... achievements

The... new... broad range of Cambodian... few years...

48. The mo... activities...

Poverty... The market economy, introduced very rapidly and ab... already caused a deep imbalance in the economic st... have been left behind... day, an alarming 36% of... threshold (4,100,000 individuals).

the last 3 years. Around 90% of Cambodian poor live in r... agriculture. Income disparity between urban and rural population... as economic growth. Moreover, market competition... the vulnerable... as a discriminatory factor...

population disabled, returnees, single women and widows face an increas...

51. Women are already facing the impact of a market economy integrated with the global network. Agricultural products, micro-enterprises, handicrafts, or other goods produced by rural women now suffer direct competition from the newly established firms, national or capital size, technology and marketing capacity is overwhelming. Micro-enterprises, which are now widespread, do not seem to represent an alternative or a path to the need of rural poor.

Most significant impacts of market economy, which has been emphasized by the commodification of land. Loss of land property represents the loss of production, and is the first step in a well-known vicious circle that leads to unemployment in highly exploitative jobs, and further poverty. Cambodia, which has the pressure of a high population density as did other countries in the region, has experienced land scarcity for the first time in its history.

As a result, many women are losing their land and find a livelihood elsewhere. In many rural areas, women are engaged in forest products, collection of fuel wood, and small-scale activities. These activities are the main sources of the family income and subsistence for the survival of indigenous people in the highland areas. Increasing forest degradation and industrial activities endanger both the environment and the subsistence of these communities. Therefore, the collection of non-timber forest products and water are women's activities. As their access to land and forest increases, women's production and income also increase.

There is a trend of women migrating, both inside the country and towards neighboring countries. This indicates the ongoing process of rural areas into the town or across the borders, construction enterprises or even as

and is managed by a network of... Women migrating alone, without the support of their families, are particularly vulnerable to exploitation and abuses. Migration to foreign countries normally results in... dangerous or highly exploitative jobs that are no longer wanted by locals. They are discriminated due to gender, race, and class without a supportive structure to assist them in case of violence or abuses. When illegal migration takes place across the borders... and migrants face the... near slavery or forced...
Land
52. One... global... mean... migr... has n... is no

Migration

54. The flow of migration, and the increasing feminization of poverty. Women migrate across borders, to be employed as workers in garment factories or as beggars.

55. Several indicators show that migration... information... opportunities in other... Women migrating alone, without the support of their families, are particularly vulnerable to exploitation and abuses. Migration to foreign countries normally results in... dangerous or highly exploitative jobs that are no longer wanted by locals. They are discriminated due to gender, race, and class without a supportive structure to assist them in case of violence or abuses. When illegal migration takes place across the borders... and migrants face the... near slavery or forced...
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Trafficking of women and children

56. In many cases the job promised by the intermediaries simply does not exist, and the final destination is the commercial sex sector. An increasing number of women and children are trafficked into prostitution, in Cambodia and abroad, reflecting quite clearly the degree of integration of the Cambodian racket into others in the region. The Commission on Human Rights and Reception of Complaints of the Cambodia National Assembly, which analyzed the problem in 1997, mentioned in the report that Cambodian women work as prostitutes in Thailand, Malaysia, Taiwan and Hong Kong, and all over Cambodia as well. The report

... networks are...
... people with power such as the wives of high-ranking army officers. Their role is to...
... provide money to the low-level dealers so that they can seek and deceive girls in the villages
... and find markets in the towns or provinces for sale and exchange children"

Besides the trafficking of women and children for prostitution, there is a spreading ...
... where they are forced to become beggars. Trafficking of women and
... the same speed as other global businesses. The map of trafficking in
... this huge, and Cambodia is a receiving country for women sent
... countries, and a sending country for Cambodian women trafficked a

Commercial sex

... and respect for the value of women. Article 46 of
... of human beings, exploitation for commercial sex and
... of women are prohibited." However, the reality in
... values and the traditional and cultural values that have long existed.

... is not a new problem for Cambodia. The problem existed before the war but
... 75-79 it did not occur. In 1979-91 prostitution re-emerged but largely remained
... hidden and on a very low scale. Between 1991 and the present, the c
... economy opened the door to foreign investors to Cambodia. This deve
... presence of UNTAC (United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia
... saw businesses boom despite the will of the Royal Government. In 4 y
... hotels, restaurants, nightclubs, massage parlors, the majority of which
... foreigners - were rapidly built. At the same time, a number of tourists visit
... temples also seek sexual services in particular from children. Brothels are
... the country, even in small towns and villages. More than 50,000 women
... and a significant percentage of them have been trafficker

... g prostitutes has become a generalized form of behavior in Cambodia and sex is
... as a commodity, open to other forms of circulation. A sex market exists in
... amahs, bars and dance halls. The purchase of sexual services is assuming a form of
... every social category of the male population to consume sex services, according to their
... spending power. Commercial sex purchase includes a component of exhibition of wealth and
... in a market economy.

economic growth of recent years has contributed to the expansion of the sector, which is now a significant source of capital accumulation for the country. In addition to the fact that data disaggregated by sex on tourism are not available, it is also suggested that Cambodia is already considered a sex tourism destination. On the other hand, several materials already circulate which publicize through "true stories", or "travelogues", the availability of commercial sex in Cambodia. The Royal

60. The "true stories" publicize the availability of commercial sex in Cambodia. The Royal

66. While income associated with non-agricultural work may enable women to improve their life, insufficient educational opportunities, linked to poor working conditions and the absence of basic services, may prevent women from acquiring economic and social well being, and increase inequalities and marginalisation. Cambodian garment workers, currently, experience most of these disadvantages,

Services privatization

67. The shift to a market economy, combined with the lack of national resources, has led to *de facto* privatization of the social structures. The public structure, characterised by unsustainable low salaries, lack of equipment and materials, insufficient funds for costs and training, tends to apply, in an informal way, the same principles of privatisation which results in uncontrolled fees imposed on clients. For this reason, the Government has adopted a step-by-step approach to privatization of the service sector in order to address the lack of public services in the country including the lack of services for women.

Health

68. In accordance with Article 22 of the Constitution, the State is responsible for providing health care services to women. The Royal Government has planned to provide health care services to women through the establishment of health centres in rural areas.

69. The cost of health services, and the lack of medical facilities in rural areas, have made health services unaffordable for the majority of women. Sales of contraceptives shows a clear gap, as more than 50% of the sales take place in Phnom Penh, where only 8.7% of the population live. Medical care constitutes the primary reason for the indebtedness of the population. Recent social research has shown that illness within a family is one of the main reasons for land sale.

70. Women's health statistics remain very poor. The mortality rate has been estimated at 473 per 100,000, which means that 2000 women die annually while giving birth. Worse, it is estimated that 200,000 women suffer severe obstetrical complications, lack of medical care and reproductive health services. The poor health condition of Cambodian women is a result of the survey conducted by UNICEF and WFP four years ago.

71. 74% of the pregnant women were anaemic, 40% were classified as underweight and 24% were malnourished. The families went without eating due to lack of food or money, at least some days during the year.

72. In Cambodia 47% of the total population do not receive health services, the Royal Government has plans to expand and strengthen the health sector to the rural areas and has accommodated the privatization of the health sector. The Royal Government has gradually improved the management of public hospitals for private hospitals. As an example, Cambodge hospital under the privatization programme. Other main hospitals in the capital has been managed following the model.

Education

72. According to Article 68 of the Constitution, all Cambodian citizens are entitled to receive primary and secondary education in public schools without charge. Despite the efforts of the Royal Government, the education sector is still facing shortage of schools, teachers, salaries, teaching materials and up to date teaching methodologies. This hinders efforts regarding reducing illiteracy, completing primary education, gaining higher education, and forces many children to pay for private tutoring.

73. In accordance with the policy of the government, a process of privatization of education is going on, based on support courses provided by teachers privately in the public structures, but the process is slow and uneven. Education costs for the Cambodian family are becoming increasingly unaffordable. Payment of fees is a major barrier to access to education, especially for the less wealthy from the educational system.

74. Cambodian girls are deeply affected by the shift from a public, merit oriented school system (albeit very poor) toward a system based on wealth. The data concerning female enrollment in the school system shows little change during the last five years. The drop out rate for girls is dramatically high and access to upper secondary school has even from primary school is limited. In many areas, girls are discouraged from attending school by national policies giving preference to boys. The number of girls having access to university courses are limited. Economic obstacles work together in creating barriers to girls' education. The whole process of building gender equality is compromised by the insufficient state means invested in making the national education system more equitable. The insufficient state investment in making the national education system more equitable is a major barrier to equalizing equal opportunities to both girls and boys.

The HIV epidemic

75. The case of the HIV epidemic is particularly alarming in Cambodia. The rates are extremely high among the population. The number of HIV-positive people is estimated as high as 1.5 million. While 25,000 AIDS patients will need medical care by the year 2000. The whole country is being affected by the spread of AIDS. Despite several years of work in AIDS awareness and education, infection rates continue to rise. HIV is mainly spread by heterosexual contacts, which are multiplied by the widespread purchase of commercial sex. Cambodian women are affected by the epidemic. Not only 64% of commercial sex workers, according to the statistics, are infected, but recent testing indicates that one in 30 pregnant women is HIV positive. Married women get infected by their legal partners who have extra-marital partners, both married women and sex workers, due to the lack of power in sexual relationships, rely only on men's awareness and sense of responsibility for HIV prevention.

76. Mass campaigns focused on reduction of the number of sex partners fail to explain that such measures to be effective should be implemented right to start to any throughout one's sexual life. Nearly 60% of commercial sex clients still do not use condoms, while 40% of sex workers do not use condoms with their regular partners. Campaigns addressing the male population are timid, and tend to view extramarital sex as an unavoidable prerogative, while strong resistance hinders the development of an open discussion on female sexuality and sexual empowerment as a tool to reduce HIV risk. The world's first AIDS vaccine is still in the laboratory. Condoms are a prerequisite for protection, and stigmatized social groups adopt protection according to their social recognition and acceptance. Lack of rights, sexual subordination, poor education, social or cultural blame and stigmatization increase vulnerability to disease. The status of women in Cambodia explains quite easily their vulnerability.

Violence against women

77. Domestic violence continues to represent a threat for Cambodian women. Research in 1996 showed that violence against women in the family was a serious problem experienced by a significant number of women. While it is difficult to determine the actual incidence of

domestic violence, some indicators suggest that the number of cases is increasing. Assessed by researchers in social science, that unequal access to wealth and goods, frustration due to economic competition, pressure to earn higher income, and work migration are contributing factors to domestic violence. Rampant poverty, cash economy, limited availability of jobs and rises in the price of basic goods and services, act as

challenges for the already challenged familial and social structures. Five women as primary earners and their increased participation in the labour force, although not

often engage in a divorce procedure, normally due to their husband's violence and other obstacles, and some customary practices, adopted by court officials, hinder reconciliation but

often result in a divorce. Rape is frequently reported by the press and generally involves very violent husband. Rape is frequently reported by the press and generally involves very

women and even children. Together with other kinds of sexual violence, rape is frequently reported by the press and generally involves very

perpetrator is known.

Globalization of telecommunications

the most remote areas of the country, has a first time different and new ways of living and

suffered many years of isolation from the rest of the world. Unfortunately, the mass culture now

is commercialized. Rather than creating new and progressive values, it

reinforces traditional views, providing a frame of modernity to the existing

attitudes. This is the case of the recent massive access to pornography

which does not contribute to a process of reflection on sexual behavior and

the perception of women as commodities for male entertainment.

value of national cultural traditions, and blames the disruptive role of women. Women are particularly constrained by this vision, which does not

between a traditional unequal gender role, and a modern view of women's

new cultural notions in a system of values, where women have an important role to play in defining their cultural

X- Commitment for Further Action

ment, represented by the Ministry of Women's and Veterans' Affairs, has

strategies to promote good governance and gender equality and equity. The Royal Government is

continuing the implementation of measures currently underway and to taking full

to ensure gender equality and the promotion and protection of women's health

Furthermore, the Royal Government attaches its commitment in further

8) Faced with the challenges described above, the Ministry of Women's and Veterans' Affairs, has

governance and gender equality and equity. The Royal Government is

continuing the implementation of measures currently underway and to taking full

to ensure gender equality and the promotion and protection of women's health

Furthermore, the Royal Government attaches its commitment in further

following areas of critical concern:



Poverty

82. "Reduction" of poverty for the Royal Government development and investment provision of clean water priority. A national program organized by the Ministry

term objective and the most important objective to achieve in its Socio-economic Development Plan I and II, Rural in order to increase productivity in the rural sector, the and education for the at risk population are of the highest priority. Socio-Economic Development Plan II was recently launched on May 18, 2000 to discuss with all stakeholders

A poverty reduction working group was set up to coordinate work between the Ministry of Economy and Finance, the Ministry of Planning, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the IDB. The group will address the following priority issues

- concerning poverty reduction:
 - macro-economic stability in particular and finance;
 - strengthening the effectiveness of economic and public financial reforms, in particular to promote good governance in the mobilization of state revenue; increase of national savings; investments for the needs of the rural sector; health and education in the rural areas; increase of the efficiency in the implementation of the public administration;
 - the economic infrastructure and agriculture in the rural area in order to improve productivity and to provide opportunities for the poor to access national markets and to integrate with international markets;

investments for the needs of the rural sector; health and education in the rural areas; increase of the efficiency in the implementation of the public administration; promotion of the rural area in order to improve productivity and to provide opportunities for the poor to access national markets and to integrate with international markets;

Public Services

and plans.
policy, and

85. Public services upgrading and rehabilitation is the object of several

Principally, public expenditure is projected to increase in education and health. The program should free public revenues for implementing other sensitive programme for administrative reforms as well as contributing to increasing the effectiveness, impact and responsiveness of the public services.

and girls

in the areas of the education sector, the Royal Government has made the big effort in providing knowledge and skills by increasing general and making vocational skills training in order to strengthen the and providing sufficient school materials by increasing public expenditure to improve literacy;

Education and training

86. In order to continue to improve the quality of the current sector, the Government is taking measures to improve the

curricula to broaden the general knowledge of the students

the strategies put forward by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport to promote the following activities:

87. MoWVA will contribute to the Government by collaborating with

particular special attention will be given to girls in

the and improve the education of girls

the Eastern provinces

- Enhance enrollment of girls in schools in distant and remote areas

girls and female students in the mountainous

- Construct schools and dormitories for girls in distant areas and
- Improve nutrition for girls at risk, in distant areas and

students to complete secondary education by providing the students in school by building

- Provide access and opportunities for girls giving social considerations to

Introduce gender sensitive curricula and school

education and sports

Support the campaign against illiteracy, in particular in the rural areas including non-formal education for young girls and women outside of school;

- Support vocational and skills training for women;
- Mobilize financial support for activities and programmes; and
- Transfer amounts from the national budget from the defense to the social sector.

88. The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport will continue to improve the quality of the current sector

MoWVA will promote and monitor progress in the following areas:

- promote gender roles in the school curricula and to sustain the awareness raising and to look for solutions;
- provide information, education and communication on topics related to human rights and the roles of women at home;
- promote the status and empowerment of women in rural areas and children through the country;
- identify public institutions and NGOs that serve the interests of women.

- mainstream gender issues of domestic violence;
- improve the quality of women's education;
- provide courses in home economics for women's capacity building, for local projects, in rural areas through leadership training;
- establish emergency shelter for women;
- strengthen the cooperation between public institutions and NGOs;
- mobilize the participation of women in decision-making.

88. The problem of trafficking of women and children has been acknowledged by the Royal Government as an area of crisis. New laws have been disseminated which aim to stop trafficking, approved in 1996, is currently under study in order to strengthen the legal framework against trafficking and to penalize offenders.

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90. MoWVA launched a major campaign to strengthen the human resources and program capacity of the MoWVA by enhancing knowledge of laws and socio-economic issues related to trafficking. Under the program 2000 authorities from national to village-level administration, across six provinces and municipalities will be trained on the issues related to trafficking and migration. Further, vulnerable women and children in 900 villages will be exposed to reliable information on orderly migration and the dangers of trafficking as well as first-step means of self-protection. Intensive village-based activities that encourage preventive community action will be piloted in vulnerable villages in each project province and municipality. Nation-wide media campaigns will be aired on TV and radio. In addition, the existing MoWVA Counter-Trafficking Office will be equipped to review existing laws and draft new laws to enforce the full protection of women's rights in relation to the problem of trafficking.

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91. The Royal Government continues its measures to crackdown on prostitution by closing numerous brothels, a campaign conducted in 1997 in the provinces and the capital city, which was unprecedented. MoWVA and the Ministry of Social Action, Vocational Training, Labour and Youth Rehabilitation will cooperate with NGOs and a cross-sectoral committee to be reconstituted and take up new forms of training to commercial sex workers employment.

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92. The Ministry of Interior recently started a program on Law Enforcement Against Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of Children, with support from several donors, to improve the capacity of the police, investigation judges and prosecutors to protect child victims of exploitation and trafficking.

92. MoWVA, with other institutions continue to analyze the problem of exploitation and trafficking of women and children. Within the Royal Government guidelines against the exploitation of women and children are being discussed. The Ministry of Interior recently started a program on Law Enforcement Against Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of Children, with support from several donors, to improve the capacity of the police, investigation judges and prosecutors to protect child victims of exploitation and trafficking.

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have extended to health financing and budget allocations that are provided to each facility according to the functions performed and number of people served. Since Health Financing Charter approved by the MoH and the Ministry of Economy and Finance has emphasized the role of different models of health financing particularly participation in using and managing services to show a willingness to increase the health expenditure of the Ministry of Economy and Finance over the period of health service.

9. The Charter ensured to protect the poor. The Royal Government of Cambodia has been successful in health received almost \$20m in 1999, or 1.7 per cent of GDP. The Ministry of Finance are working in 2000 to try to achieve a more stable and late funding on terms planned provision.

strategies to promote the health for all women. This includes:

96. As part of health sector reform, the MoH has set up a system of women and children through basic care services.

antenatal care, delivery and post-natal services, reproductive health services such as birth spacing, good nutrition, safe delivery and personal and family hygiene practice. Steps are also being taken to reduce incidence of diseases including sexually transmitted diseases, particularly HIV/AIDS. These priorities are stated in the National Health Policy and Strategies (1999-2003) which aims to improve equity and accessibility to basic health services for all including for women and girls.

97. Specific priorities set up by the MoH are the following:

- reduce maternal mortality from 473 to 300 in 2001 and to 200 in 2003,
- increase prenatal care by providing first consultation from 30 to 40% in 2001 and to 50% in 2003, and
- increase maternal care from 16% in 2001 to 30% in 2003.

To reach these objectives the MoH will undertake the following activities:

- increase access for pre-natal care: each pregnant woman must have at least physical check-ups, receive vaccinations against tetanus other immunizations at least twice during pregnancy,

increase access to reproductive health services through community-based organizations to refer women to health facilities for proper care,

increase access to reproductive health and contraceptive services are provided by medical personnel in health facilities

increase access to reproductive health and contraceptive services to women through community-based organizations

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recognized by the government as a main threat to the Cambodian population of women and girls, and may cause more deaths and human losses than any other disease. A National AIDS Programme was established in Cambodia in 1987.

98. HIV/AIDS response was completed in 1997.

The National AIDS Programme was established in Cambodia in 1987. The AIDS response was completed in 1997.

1998, the National Center for HIV/AIDS was established at the MoH. In 1999, the National AIDS Authority, a coordinating body of ministries, was created to integrate strategies of HIV/AIDS into make recommendations on matters of national policy related to the epidemic in Cambodia.

Within MoWVA, several laws that now being drafted were identified as warranting special attention in order to integrate women rights: *Criminal Code, Civil Code, Land Law, Law on Maternity, Law on Family, Law on Marriage, Law on Divorce, Law on Adoption, Law on Election Law, Adoption Law, Police Act, and Regulations on the Administration of Prisons.*

104 According to MoWVA's mandate and approach to legal reform based on mainstreaming, the Ministry views the gender dimension as a factor broader than simply providing input into a few laws. Instead, within the emerging judicial reform agenda of the Royal Government, MoWVA has identified the following four priorities:

1. Constitute the legal framework, development of legal policy, laws and amendments to laws that respond to the needs of women in Cambodia. This could occur, in part, through consultations with civil society groups, academics and individuals who advocate on behalf of women. Women's active involvement in the law-making process is one way to enhance the adequacy of the laws in addressing the situation of women.

2. Effective legal services that are relevant, accessible, and sensitive to the needs of women. Legal guarantees need to be translated into actual results for women. This could occur, in part, through equitable representation of women in the police and prosecution services, the court system, prison staff, the legal profession, the courts and other legal institutions including the Constitutional Council and the Supreme Council of the Magistracy. Such services should explicitly strive to overcome the obstacles women face in taking advantage of their rights and opportunities under the law. Progress toward this goal can be made through capacity building efforts specifically on gender-sensitive implementation of the law and ongoing assessments of respect for women's rights by the authorities.

- Incentives and equal opportunities for women to pursue legal education and participate in legal and related professions as well as to become legislators. Quality facilities and equipment would contribute to a core of well-qualified women legal professionals with a high level of awareness and

3. Development of legal literacy for all persons on women's legal rights. Gender is not only a women's issue; it is a social issue that calls for public action by women and

The Royal Government believes that addressing these complementary priorities within a comprehensive judicial reform program can help strengthen the legal protection of rights of women, enhance their quality of life, and increase their ability to contribute to sustainable economic and social development. Gender mainstreaming is the basis for the success of the judicial sector, and the recent increased attention to gender issues by national agencies and donors is expected to facilitate this process. The women's networks already existing in Cambodia will help national efforts to succeed. A coordinated policy effort, supported by the NGOs, may strengthen and support national policies and play a crucial role in securing women's human rights. MoWVA's major capacity-building program, *Partnership for Building Together*, has a key component devoted to women's legal education. This component will permit the Ministry to contribute to the protection of the women's human rights by influencing the development of laws to respond to the situation of women, to contribute to the establishment of relevant and effective legal services for women, and to provide legal education about women's human rights. Additionally, this program will allow MoWVA to offer quality contributions to the forthcoming judicial reform program.

Conclusion

The Constitution elaborated in 1993 recognizes women as equal citizens in all domains of civil, economical and political life and prohibits all forms of discrimination against women, previous women's exploitation through prostitution, asserts the rights of women to take family leave with full pay. The Constitution also recognizes women's employment, recognizing that either sex should receive equal pay for equal work and giving to housework the same value as to work outside the home.

107. Actual opportunities and real choices are now needed if the new century

is to see Cambodian women as equal partners in development and decision-making as enshrined in the Constitution. The Royal Government considers its responsibility to improve the situation of women and ensure their constitutional rights a serious priority. It soon will support women's participation in all sectors, at all levels, and recognizes the vital role of women in national development.

108. Many facilitating factors toward the achievement of women's human rights already exist in Cambodia. There are no major legislative restrictions to women's equality, and there has been a full recognition of women's role and institutional bodies representing women in decision-making and participation to the national development. Progress made in all sectors are due to the joint commitment and efforts of the Royal Government, NGOs, international organizations and donor agencies, who have actively supported these issues, and continue to do so. This report outlines significant developments with regard to the advancement of women in Cambodia in the Beijing Platform for Action. However, much remains to be done, and it is the responsibility of the Royal Government and to which it is committed. Although the progress made in Cambodia still requires substantial external financial and technical assistance, efforts in the areas of critical concern canvassed in this report

are being made. In order to build the momentum of these efforts, the Royal Government recognizes that it is important not to treat the National Platform for Women as an agenda restricted to women's issues, but as an integral part of the far-reaching reform programme of the Royal Government.

Further, the Royal Government is determined to take steps so that women's views increasingly become a normal part of national as well as international discussions and negotiations involving Cambodia. Only through concerted and integrated action will the problems facing women in Cambodia be fully identified and existing constraints be removed. The Royal Government is committed to continue to improve women's status in Cambodia through the PPA.

Cambodia National Report on the Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action – Annex 1

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