

Progress Report on Cambodia's Commitment on Gender Equality

February 2017

1. Increasing Investment in Gender Equality:

In 2016, the Prime Minister has guided to the Ministry of Economic and Finance (MEF) has to instruct all ministries/ institutions to define outputs and outcomes indicators reflecting benefits for women and vulnerable people. In line with this perspective, the Ministry of Women's Affairs worked with MEF to organize a National Workshop on Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) with high level from line ministries to explore on how to apply GRB in the budget cycle. The specific actions identified for 2017-19:

1. Engendering the Public Financial Management Reform Program to increase the public investment in sectors for gender equality through using the specific tools.
2. Annual follow-up workshop with line ministries before the start of the next budget cycle to activate line ministries to integrate gender-related outputs in their budget plans.
3. Select pilot ministries to apply GRB initiative and collect best practices and case studies.
4. Exchange experiences and learn from good practices on GRB from other countries.

In addition, MEF has allocated to the national budget to the line ministries for gender responsive activities for the major sectors in 2016-2017. MEF has guided to the line ministries to prepare the action plan and the progressive report to reflect the output of gender mainstreaming in the sector.

2. Ensuring the protection of Women's Rights:

The Government's strategic priorities focused on addressing gender inequalities in sectors where gender gaps still remain high, and particularly in enhancing women's economic empowerment and women's participation in higher-level education, politics and decision making.

The government continues improving the response to meet other critical needs of women and girls, especially for improving their nutrition, sexual and reproductive health and ensuring their right to a life free of gender-based violence. The Second National Action Plan to Prevent Violence against Women has been approved by the government and for using in the annual budget preparation in each sector.

The positive measures has been implemented to increase the number of women in the public sectors, such as the extension of the retirement age of women, the new recruitment of civil servants are women from 20% to 50% and provide priority to replacing retirees with qualified women. Currently, there are 40% civil servants are women, if compared to 2015, only 37%; and there are 22% women work in the leadership and decision making position from the sub-national to national level at the director-general level, if compare in 2015 only 20%.

3. Strengthening Accountability mechanisms for Gender Equality:

The Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA) and the Cambodia National Council for Women are the main drivers for promoting gender equality and empowerment of women and monitoring the implementation across the line ministries. One such mechanism is a Technical Working Group on Gender (TWG-G), chaired by my Ministry and co-facilitated by UNDP and JICA and which includes the Government, donors and civil society representatives. The TWG-G provides a mechanism for bringing together line ministries, NGOs and donor agencies to address gender concerns, share plans, spot needs for action and focus own programmes.

Gender Mainstreaming Action Group in sectors have developed and launched under the Gender mainstreaming framework by all sectors. The National budget allocation for gender mainstreaming in all ministries are increased.

4. Continuing to promote women's involvement in economy:

The Government has set Women's Economic Empowerment as a priority for the promotion of gender equality policy through the promotion of employment opportunities for women and working conditions, improving the women-owned micro, small and medium enterprises and supporting the poor women in development of livelihood.

The establishment of the Gender Mainstreaming Action Group in the Ministry of Commerce and the Ministry of Industry and Handicraft and its strategic plans help to create a good enabling environment for women's engagement in business, including SMEs.

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery has set out policy and framework on gender mainstreaming in agricultural sector 2016 – 2010 which focus on 1) promotion of the economic empowerment for women by offering the accessible of goods and services for the development of agriculture and agricultural market. 2) strengthening capacity, resources and commitment of Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery to ensure the effectiveness of gender mainstreaming in agricultural sector and 3) promotion of the representation and equal participation of men and women in agricultural sector.

National Social Security Fund has been expanded in 25 provincial/municipal and registered enterprises/establishments of 8563 with 1 127 037 employee (793 210 are women) and provided job risk allowance to its employee of 27 881 (19 243 were women). Currently, National Social Security Fund has set up a health insurance scheme for garment workers on the medical service and referral service in which 11 registered factories with its total workers of 6312 (5681 are women), 120 hospitalization, 2049 health consultation, 34 deliveries and 21 miscarriages.