



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA

NATION - RELIGION - KING

**PERMANENT MISSION
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

No. PMC/UN/132/20

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Cambodia to the United Nations presents its compliments to the United Nations Secretariat, and with reference the latter's note verbal No. UNW/2020/0002, dated 21 April 2020, has the honour to convey the Report of the Ministry of Women's Affairs of the Royal Government of Cambodia on the implementation of the following United Nations General Assembly Resolutions:

- Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls: sexual harassment (A/RES/73/148);
- Trafficking in women and girls (A/RES/73/146); and
- Intensifying global efforts for the elimination of female genital mutilation (A/RES/73/149).

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Cambodia would like to request the United Nations Secretariat to kindly forward the above report to its highest destination.

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Cambodia to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the United Nations Secretariat the assurances of its highest consideration.

The United Nations Secretariat
Attention: Office of the United Nations Entity
for Gender Equality and the Empowerment Of Women
New York



New York, 01 June 2020



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA



**Report on the implementation of the UN General Assembly Resolutions
On Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence
against women and girls: sexual harassment (A/RES/73/148),
on Trafficking in women and girls (A/RES/73/146),
and on Intensifying global efforts for the elimination of female
genital mutilation (A/RES/73/149)**

Prepared by the Ministry of Women's Affairs

Royal Government of Cambodia

20th May 2020, Phnom Penh

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Preliminary note about report

The current report is focused on the UN General Assembly Resolutions A/RES/73/148 on **Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls: sexual harassment** and A/RES/73/146 on **Trafficking in women and girls**.

Female genital mutilation is not an issue in Cambodia, neither in the Cambodian indigenous groups nor in the Cambodian Muslim minority. Therefore, the current report does not address the UN Resolution A/RES/73/149 on **Intensifying global efforts for the elimination of female genital mutilation**

A. Policies and laws

Policies:

During the reporting period, key policies to address Violence Against Women and Girls, including sexual harassment and Trafficking in Women and Girls, have been implemented by the Royal Government of Cambodia on an ongoing basis in cooperation with relevant stakeholders, such as civil society organizations (CSOs) and development partners:

- The National Strategic Plan for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment 2014-2018 (Neary Rattanak IV) is the five-year overarching policy to promote gender equality and women's empowerment in Cambodia and to guide efforts for gender mainstreaming across Government. This policy was developed under the leadership of the Ministry of Women's Affairs and in cooperation with line ministries, CSOs and development partners. This policy includes 9 key strategies to end Violence Against Women and Girls which are under the Strategic Area of Legal Protection for Women and Girls. The Neary Rattanak IV has been used to activate the implementation of sectoral policies and action plans to address Violence Against Women and Girls such as the Second National Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against Women (2014-2018).
- The **Third National Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against Women (NAPVAW3 2019-2023)** which is expected to be endorsed by the Royal Government of Cambodia in June 2020, is the key policy in Cambodia to end violence against women and girls. It was developed using participatory process comprised by multiple consultations at sub-national level and a number of consultations at national level. This consultative process engaged a wide variety of actors, including line ministries, development partners, women survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) themselves and civil society organizations working with groups which are especially vulnerable to GBV, such as women with disabilities, women working in men's

entertainment sector, women engaged in prostitution, women workers in the garment industry and women migrant workers. The diversity of the groups involved in the consultation is reflected in the policy document's recognition that some groups of women and girls face particular vulnerability to violence and therefore need targeted interventions.

The Third NAPVAW builds on the lessons learnt from the Second NAPVAW 2014-2018 which was implemented and monitored through a high-level technical working group to address Violence against Women led by the Ministry of Women's Affairs which was established in 2012 and includes line ministries, CSOs, and international development partners.

- **The Third National Plan of Action for Counter-Trafficking in Persons (2019-2023)** is the key policy and roadmap developed by the National Committee for Counter Trafficking in a joint consultative process involving line ministries, CSOs, development partners and private sector. The Plan is based on the findings of the assessment and lessons learnt of the Second Plan of Action. The Third Plan of Action targets the '4 Ps' (Policy, Prevention, Prosecution and Protection) and sets up 6 core values for its implementation: 1) government ownership; 2) human rights-based approach; 3) gender- based programming; 4) active civil society and stakeholders participation; 5) integrated multi-sector approach; and 6) systemic monitoring, evaluation and sustainability.

The Third Plan of Action pays special attention to improvement of the '4 Ps' through development and implementation of guidelines or standards procedures, improvement of data collection systems, enhancement of cooperation between stakeholders, implementation of capacity development measures for involved authorities, enhancement of impact of primary prevention campaigns and activities, and increase efforts in research and evidence-based policy making.

- **The Village/Commune Safety Policy**, which was launched by the Ministry of Interior in 2010 and serves as a priority policy for the Royal Government of Cambodia. The policy urges communal level authorities to ensure that there is no trafficking of women and children, domestic violence or other crimes occurring at any commune in Cambodia.
- **The Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against Children 2017-2021**, developed in joint collaboration between MoWA and the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation (MoSAVY), is the five-year action plan on the elimination all forms of violence against children in Cambodia. MoSAVY coordinates the implementation of the action plan.

- The Positive Parenting Strategy and Toolkit developed in 2015 and piloted from 2016-2018 by MoWA and development partners, to promote non-violent forms of child discipline and protect children from violence practices is an opportunity to influence the gender norms of parents, men and boys and provide alternatives to violence.
- In 2016, A Minimum Standard for Basic Counselling for Women and Girl Survivors of Gender-Based Violence document was finalized to ensure the application of a client-centred human rights approach in delivering services to GBV survivors. The rollout of the guidelines and training for service providers was conducted in a nation-wide.

Laws:

During the reporting period, the laws which explicitly address Violence Against Women and Girls, including sexual harassment and Trafficking in Women and Girls, have been implemented and used by judicial and police officials. These include:

- **The Law on Prevention of Domestic Violence and the Protection of Victims (2005)** establishes the responsibility of local authorities to intervene in cases of domestic violence and provides for protection orders to be issued by the courts to protect the victim from any further violence.
- **The Law on Suppression of Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation (2008)** is a comprehensive law addressing trafficking in persons and sexual exploitation crimes in Cambodia, in compliance with Cambodia's obligations under the Palermo Protocol. It provides the definitions and sentences applicable to unlawful recruitment, cross border transfer of persons and the act of buying, selling or exchanging a human being for the purposes of exploitation.
- **The Cambodian Labour Law** prohibits sexual harassment and indecent behaviour in the workplace (Article 172) and prohibits forced or compulsory labour and provides for a fine of 61-90 days' reference wages or imprisonment ranging from 6 days to 1 month (Article 15). It also prohibits the hiring of people for work to pay off debts (Article 16).
- **The Civil Code** (completed in 2006) and the **Civil Procedure Code** (2007).
- **The Criminal Code** and the **Criminal Procedure Code** (completed in 2010).
- **The Law on Regulating Concentrated Acid** (2011).

Other relevant legal frameworks related to Violence Against Women and Girls in Cambodia include:

- **The Constitution of the Kingdom of Cambodia** stipulates as follows:
 - Article 31 provides that the Kingdom of Cambodia shall recognize and respect human rights as stipulated in the UN Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human rights, the covenants and conventions related to human rights, women's and children's rights.
 - Article 32 provides that Khmer citizens residing abroad shall receive the protection of the state.
 - Article 38 states that the detention of a person shall not be done unless in accordance with the law.
 - Article 45 calls for the abolition of all forms of discrimination against women.
- The **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)**, ratified by Cambodia in 1992, and its Optional Protocol, ratified in 2010.
- The **Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)** –ratified by Cambodia in 1992- and its optional protocols, which set out the basic human rights of boys and girls, including the right to protection from all forms of physical and mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse (Article 19).

Legal reinforcement to intervene in Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG)

Over the last 5 years, the Royal Government has significantly increased the budget allocation for justice services including legal aid for poor women and girls. The national budget for legal aid services increased from USD 125,000 in 2014 to USD 350,000 in 2019. In 2019, the Cambodian National Council for Women signed a MOU with the Bar Association of the Kingdom of Cambodia to expand the delivery of legal aid services for poor women. Moreover, our Prime Minister recently established a lawyer group to provide pro-bono services for women and girl victims of violence.

The Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA) has cooperated proactively with line ministries to strengthen the implementation of VAWG related laws. MoWA has a close collaboration with the Ministry of Interior (MoI) to provide training courses on VAWG related laws and legal procedure for local authorities in 25 provinces/municipalities; between 2018 and 2019, 1,284 participants (1,124 females) attended these trainings. In addition, Minimum Standards for Basic Counselling for Women

and Girls Survivors of GBV and other gender sensitive approaches for supporting VAW survivors are being incorporated into the new curriculum at the Royal Police Academy. Both Operational Standards and Codes of Conduct for police have been implemented, which include ethical codes that are reflective of CEDAW and UNSCR 1325.

In total, 94 of MoWA's and Provincial Department of Women's Affairs were assigned as Judicial Police Officers (JPOs) by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ)'s inter-ministerial Prakas No. 165 issued on 17 July 2016; and at the provincial level they play a crucial role in directly supporting survivors. The Judicial Police of the Ministry of Women's Affairs, which was created according to the Law on Domestic Violence (passed in 2005), is responsible for protecting survivors and assisting them in seeking justice through the legal system. MoWA trained the JPOs on legal procedures and multi-sectoral reconciliation processes to legally protect women's rights. From 2018-2019, CNCW provided assistance to 237 female survivors of gender-based violence through MoWA JPOs. The JPOs effectively coordinated with local authorities and court officials to speed up the procedure on cases of violence against women and children, particularly juvenile cases by referring the cases to the court for legal action.

For the purpose of improving availability and accessibility of services to women victims/survivors of GBV and better enforce VAW related laws, the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) formulated a Gender Mainstreaming Action Plan (GMAP) which also became part of the strategic plan of the MoJ (2014-2018). In this strategic plan, MoJ aims to focus on the training of both national and international laws on VAW to be widely disseminated for practical application among jurists across Cambodia. As a process to implementing its GMAP, the MoJ has intensified efforts to train judges and prosecutors, and organized a number of training courses on CEDAW and the Domestic Violence Law.

The MoJ created a mechanism for meetings between judges, prosecutors and judicial police commissioners. They also developed forms for protection orders and instructed the court and prosecution offices throughout the country to use the formula on the 'temporary protection order' and 'protection order' as stipulated in the DV Law and the regulation issued in July 2011.

Legal reinforcement to intervene in trafficking in women and girls:

The National Committee for Counter Trafficking (NCCT) is the key mechanism to counter trafficking in persons and sexual exploitation, with structures at the national and sub-national level. The National Plan of Action for Counter Trafficking in Persons 2019-2023 (NPA-CTIP III) aims to deepen and consolidate the response at the national and sub-national levels. The NCCT establishes six national thematic working groups, comprising government officials and CSOs, to facilitate a holistic and comprehensive response to human trafficking, targeting prevention,

victim protection, law enforcement, justice, international cooperation and migration. The Provincial Committees for Combatting Trafficking in Persons have a clear structure, with national budget allocated for implementation of the NPA-CTIP III, and are chaired by a Provincial Governor or Deputy Provincial Governor.

The NCCT continued to improve the legal framework and mechanisms, including the completion of the *Guidelines on Forms and Procedures for Identification of Victims of Human Trafficking for Appropriate Services Provision* (2015). Training on relevant laws have been incorporated into the curriculum of the Royal Academy of National Police, Judicial Professionals, and Royal Military Police. Judicial Police have received training on Standard Operating Procedures for All Trafficking in Persons legal instruments.

Since 2015, the MoJ has started to distribute the *Law on the Suppression of Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation*, and accompanying Explanatory Notes on the content of each article, to facilitate the understanding of the content and application of the Law. The MoJ produced a register book for criminal and civil cases for the Capital and Provincial Courts of First Instances as a method of monitoring the court system, especially cases involving women.

To strengthen the law enforcement against human trafficking, MoWA trained trainers at sub-national level about prevention of human trafficking and sexual exploitation. From 2018-2019, 8 courses were undertaken with 336 trainees (286 women) with the participation of staff from provincial departments of women's affairs and competent authorities at sub-national level.

A training module on national, regional and international laws and other legal instruments on the investigation and prosecution of Trafficking in Persons cases has been incorporated into the curriculum of the Royal Academy of National Police, Judicial Professionals and Royal Military Police since 2014. The curriculum has been widened at the Royal Academy of Judicial Professionals and Lawyer Training Center to train prosecution officers and specialized judges in the adjudication of trafficking in persons and labour and sexual exploitation cases. There has been specialized training and support for female police officers through development partners/NGOs on anti-human trafficking, criminal code and procedures and forensic examination.

Results of the combined efforts of the MoI and MoJ to enforce the *Law on Suppression of Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation of Women* (2018-2019)

Type of Offense	Cases	Arrests/Defendants (No.)	Survivors
Human Trafficking	74	150 (103 women, 11 foreigners)	212 (< Age 15 =43; Age 15-17 =39)
Commercial Sex	214	276 (52 women, 59 foreigners)	449 (< Age 15=179; Age 15-17=39)

During the reporting period, the Sub-Decree 190 issued by the Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training (MoLVT) with the goal of improving conditions, security and welfare of Cambodian female and male migrant workers abroad, and its supplementary 8 prakas (ministerial orders) which were endorsed in 2013 are still in effect:

1. Prakas on the Use of Key Terms in Sub-Decree 190 (February 2013)
2. Prakas on Private Recruitment Agency (February 2013)
3. Prakas on Recruitment Process and Pre-Departure Orientation Training (February 2013)
4. Prakas on Receiving Complaint Mechanism for Migrant Workers (February 2013)
5. Prakas on Inspection on Private Recruitment Agency (February 2013)
6. Prakas on Reward and Penalty to Private Recruitment Agency (February 2013)
7. Prakas on Services of Private Recruitment on Site and Repatriation (February 2013)
8. Prakas on Promulgation of Minimum Standards of Job Placement Services Abroad Contract (September 2013)

The MOLVT established a Labour Migration Information System (LMIS) that collects sex- and sector-disaggregated data on the number of Cambodian workers that migrate through regular channels, with support from partners such as IOM. The MOLVT has also been involved in the regional discussions on the drafting of an ASEAN Agreement on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers which was later signed by the ASEAN Member States in March 2018.

From 2018 to 2019, the RGC concluded a number of bilateral agreements with destination countries:

- With the Republic of India on Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Cooperation for Prevention of Human Trafficking. It aims to increase the bilateral cooperation on the issues of prevention, rescue and repatriation related to human trafficking signed in Jan 2018.
- With Thailand on MoU on strengthening the management of the repatriation and reintegration of human trafficking victims signed in April 2019
- With Lao People's Democratic Republic on Memorandum of Understanding on Labour Cooperation signed in September 2019

Currently, Cambodia is seeking for the cooperation with Malaysia to develop or finalize Memorandums of Understanding on countertrafficking focusing on women domestic workers in particular.

B. Prevention (including addressing the root and structural causes and social norms)

MoWA has placed primacy on public behavioural change in recognition of the fact that social constructs such as gender bias and stereotypes underpin remaining gaps across all sectors. The education system, mass media and social media are considered the main vectors for influencing change in attitudes, which inform and influence behaviour.

Prevention of Violence against Women and Girls in the Context of COVID-19

It is currently globally recognised that the COVID-19 pandemic is starting to directly impact and hence increase the risk of domestic violence, due to the restrictions imposed on persons movement and prolonged confinement measures across individual homes. In the meantime, the continuity of providing essential services and protection to gender-based violence survivors is still one of the government's priorities during this crisis.

The Royal Government of Cambodia, through the Ministry of Women's Affairs in closed collaboration with national and international partners, has undertaken special measures to ensure that women and girls who are at risk of violence have access to relevant COVID-19 prevention messages, protective items, and where/how to access relevant information and services.

The key interventions have been carried out through 3 different approaches:

1. Ensuring continuity of essential GBV services provision

- Support provincial departments of women's affairs (PDOWA) in operating online counseling by developing succinct guiding notes
- Equip PDOWA with adequate material (smart phone or tablets) to run online services
- Online psychosocial consultation and online coaching for trained local providers.

2. Communication and prevention message

- Share information on existing hotline and through social media such as Facebook, Telegram application
- Message through social media on anger management, psychosocial support
- Print leaflets and distribute hand fans with GBV hotline and service information in targeted provinces

3. Humanitarian response

- Provide hand sanitizers and Kromar with designed information on GBV
- Distribute masks and sanitizing gel for local authorities in targeted provinces
- Document information and evidence on impact of COVID 19 in GBV cases and demand for services

In addition, the Ministry of Women's Affairs is looking for collaboration with UNFPA to conduct a study on impacts of the Covid-19 outbreak in selected provinces in regards to violence against women in order to understand the extent of the crisis and develop appropriate, response measures.

Prevention of VAWG

Annually -including during the reporting period-, MoWA in cooperation with line ministries, civil society organizations and development partners, is carrying out campaigns and activities for public awareness and mobilization to promote gender equality and prevent Violence Against Women and Girls both at national and sub-national level:

- A number of activities were organized by the Government and related partners at national and sub-national level as part of the **International Women's Day Campaign-8 March**, which is celebrated since 1980 and even recognized as a national public holiday in Cambodia; and

the **16 Days Campaign** (from 25th November to 10th December). The main event of the 8 March campaign is presided over by the Cambodian Prime Minister every year. Since 2011, the Ministry of Women's Affairs is also leading the **Good Men Campaign**, which is mobilizing men and boys across Cambodia and engaging them to promote gender equality, prevent violence and reinforce positive masculinities. This campaign has targeted over 3 million men and young men through media and social mobilization activities such as theatre performances, arts exhibitions and sports.

MoWA has coordinated joint efforts involving government ministries and institutions, NGOs/CSOs, media, private sectors and communities in annual International Women's Day events and the annual 16-Days Campaign of Activism to End Violence Against Women. Examples of multi-stakeholder collaboration to address harmful attitudes and behaviors towards women include the MoWA-led "*Good Men Campaign*" (2011–2015), the 2016 "*#WhyStop*" and the 2015 "*Sexual Harassment Stops Here*" 16-Days Campaigns, and the 2015 and 2016 "*Engaging Men and Boys*" Campaigns.

In 2018, the 16 Days Campaign of Activism to End Violence Against Women, was organized in 15 provinces under the theme "Ending violence against women and girls starts from you" engaging in total 4,027 participants (3030 females) who were teachers, students, local authorities and villagers. The awareness raising activities including walking parade, television broadcasting covered over 924 villages and radio programs covered over 6,574 villages. In 2019, the campaign was carried out under the theme "Think equal, act together, to end violence against women and girls" involving 6,422 participants (4,113 females) to increase awareness raising and promote positive behavioural change and engage young people as change agents to end violence against women and girls.

A media advisory group under the leadership of MoWA and the Ministry of Information with support from the Club of Cambodian Journalists was formed to improve media responses to VAW. A joint ministerial Prakas on the Media Code of Conduct for reporting VAW was signed in 2017 by MoWA and the Ministry of Information to prevent wrongdoing in reporting of violence against women, including depiction of cases with entertainment or comical purposes, and to change social attitudes toward the elimination of violence against women. In addition, MoWA developed an Information and Communication Strategy for primary prevention in 2017 for all stakeholders involved in the media. The multi-stakeholder working group including government agencies, media and NGOs was created in 2020 to monitor the implementation of the code. In 2019, MoWA in collaboration with the relevant partners organised 6 workshops to disseminate this media code of conduct with the participation of 498 (291 females) media reporters, actors, editors, comedians and current media students.

To specifically enhance knowledge and skills of youth and adolescents to promote and build gender

equitable, non-violent relationships and to improve their attitudes, behaviour and practices on women's human rights, MoWA organized public forums on "youth together to end violence against women" to raise awareness among young students in formal education at secondary and tertiary education. Between 2018-2019 the public forums reached 3,780 students and teachers (2,073 females). In the meantime, public forums on eliminating violence against women and girls, rape, trafficking in women and children were also conducted at sub-national level and reached 5,756 villagers (3,455 females).

Other efforts toward prevention of violence includes the Strategy on Positive Parenting (2017) which focuses on teaching methods of non-violent parenting to parents. From 2018-2019, MoWA provided trainings on skills and techniques of how to use Positive Parenting materials to 246 communal workers (173 females) who were from provincial departments of women's affairs, commune committees for women and children, commune councils, village volunteering groups. Public forums to promote awareness raising on positive parenting at communal level were also carried out involving 8,713 villagers (6,902 females).

Since 2016 the MoEYS has launched a life skill curriculum for primary school (Grades 5-6), lower secondary school (Grades 7-8), upper secondary school (Grades 10-11), and for youth out of school. The curriculums for each level include: basic reproductive, sexual and health education, including HIV/AIDS, hygiene and gender concepts (Grades 5-6); gender roles, sexuality and gender expression (Grades 7-8); human rights, gender equality, gender roles, sexual harassment and gender-based violence (Grades 10-11).

Five percent of women reported having experienced at least one form of sexual harassment in their lifetime. The most common form of sexual harassment reported was electronic sexual harassment that includes on-line harassment, or acts such as pornography on cellphones, followed by groping or unwanted sexual contact in public. The Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications set up a technical working group to regularly monitor the spread of pornography and negative information and images of women on the Internet. The group has requested Internet users and website owners to close the accounts and remove pornographic content from social media and other communication technologies.¹

Notable progress has also been made to address VAW in the workplace led by the Ministry of Labor Vocational Training (MoLVT); with the adoption of a Prakas No. 194 in August 2014 titled "Working conditions, occupational safety and health rules for entertainment service enterprises, establishment and companies". Article 8 of the MoLVT Prakas prohibits violence or indecent acts against entertainment workers by any person. From 2014-2016, MoWA, MoLVT, and CSO partners reached over 16,000 female hospitality and tourism (HT) and entertainment workers and over 250 HT outlets signed

¹ CEDAW/C/KHM/6, paragraph 54

commitments to safe workplaces. Since 2017, the MoLVT has trained almost 350 participants in the HT sector on relevant labour law information to HT and entertainment establishments including Prakas No. 194. For HT outlets, training sessions on labour law and workplace protections by government ministries resulted in increased adherence to workplace safety protections for female workers while peer education sessions with female HT workers have led to increased confidence to deal with and report sexual harassment at the workplace.

Key milestones related to prevention of and respond to Violence Against Women and Girls between 2014-2019:

- In cooperation with CARE, other NGOs, line ministries and private sector, awareness raising activities were carried out to promote safety at workplace and end of discrimination, exploitation and sexual harassment at the workplace.
- Established One Stop Service Place in two provinces (Steung Treng and Kampong Cham) so that survivors of GBV can benefit from services which are more harmonized and responsive to their needs and rights.
- A Media Code of Conduct for Reporting on Violence Against Women was approved and trained to reporters;
- The Commune Alcohol Notification System was piloted targeting alcohol abuse and violence against women;
- The “Positive Parenting” Strategy was developed to target prevention of violence to parents.
- Referral Guidelines for Women and Girl Survivors of Gender Based Violence completed;
- Minimum Standards of Basic Counselling for Women and Girl Survivors of Gender Based Violence completed;
- A Sexual Harassment Workplace Policy and Prevention Package was developed and implemented in garment factories;
- National Guidelines for Managing Violence Against Women and Children in the Health System and a Clinical Handbook for Responding to Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence were developed;
- By the end of 2018, 101 public health facilities received training on health sector response to VAW, in line with the National Guidelines and providing services to victims of violence

- The Technical Working Group on Gender -Gender Based Violence (TWGG-GBV) has been re-organized its structure, hold regular coordinating meetings and developed and initiated a joint Annual Operational Plan between five key ministries;
- Sub-Working Groups on Gender Based Violence were initiated in at least eight provinces to improve coordination between key service providers;
- The “Healthy and Happy Relationships” prevention project targeting young people was piloted;
- Social norm change has been included on training for minimum service standards for state and non-state service providers;
- The “Why Stop” Campaign targeting sexual harassment was implemented;
- Significant awareness raising continues especially around the 16 Day Campaign to End Violence Against Women;
- National budget was increasingly allocated to support women’s access to legal aid;
- Judicial police agents were trained in all provinces using the Legal Protection Guidelines;
- A Data Collection for Services Provided and Referred was piloted;
- Increased budget for legal aid services through Cambodia National Council for Women to support attorneys Bar Association;
- Increased budget to meet the urgent needs of victims/survivors of violence against women.
- Secondary analysis of data sets existing data sets was conducted identifying key areas for intervention: Media, Alcohol Abuse, Child Abuse, and Education.

Prevention of Trafficking in women and girls

Enhancing prevention is one of the strategies of the second National Plan of Action for Counter Trafficking in Persons 2014–2018 (NPA-CTIP II). Significant prevention activities on human trafficking including public awareness raising efforts have occurred. The NCCT has organized the National Day for Counter Trafficking in Persons on the 12th of every December at the national and sub-national levels in 25 municipalities and provinces together with government ministries, institutions and development organizations. The events highlighted the importance of prevention and protection of victims of

trafficking and the prosecution of perpetrators, through the cooperation and management of migrants. The NCCT and NGO partners have aired radio, TV spots and talk shows on prevention of trafficking and promotion of safe migration, while MoEYS has mainstreamed safe migration and prevention of trafficking messages in youth camps.

The government has also integrated the topics of labour migration and human trafficking, including safe migration, recognizing signs of human trafficking, and tricks of brokers, into the permanent agenda of the 'Safe Village, Safe Commune Policy' public forum. The aim is to strengthen local authorities and citizen participation in the prevention of trafficking and dissemination and implementation of laws and policies to combat human trafficking and provide justice for victims. Under the policy framework, dissemination activities through public forums were carried out nationwide to increase awareness raising on human trafficking, sexual exploitation, and safe migration involving 4,457,851 participants (2,349,091 females) and 5,228,402 participants (2,656,086 females) in 2018 and 2019 respectively.

The Ministry of Women's Affairs has accomplished several awareness activities on safe migration and prevention of trafficking for marriage through the media (mainly radio talk shows) in several provinces. Currently, Cambodia is one of the countries in ASEAN that implements the Safe and Fair programme: realizing women migrant workers' rights and opportunities in the ASEAN Region is part of the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative to eliminate violence against women and girls, a global, multi-year initiative between the European Union and United Nations. For instance, one of the activities of the programme is to train service frontline service providers on "Essential Services Packages for Women and Girls Subject to Violence".

From 2018- 2019, Cambodian embassies in partnering with NGOs and development partners arranged for the safe return home of 46,962 Cambodian migrants (17,131 females) from 8 destination countries, the returnees from Thailand accounted for more than 98%. Among the returnees, there were suspected victims of trafficking in form of sexual exploitation, labour exploitation and forced marriages.

C. Multisectoral services, programmes and responses

Multi-stakeholder coordination at national level:

- The Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA) established a high level mechanism for inter-ministerial and multi-stakeholders coordination to address VAW/G at national level (called Technical Working Group on GBV) in 2012. The TWG-GBV is chaired by MoWA and co-facilitated by development partners.
- The National Committee for Counter Trafficking (2009) works to ensure inter-ministerial

and multi-stakeholder coordination in the fight against trafficking in persons. It was restructured in 2014 with the goal of deepening and consolidating the response at sub-national level, including provincial, district and commune levels.

- The Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking (COMMIT) was created through endorsement of multilateral MoU in Yangon in 2004 by the representatives of the six governments from the Greater Mekong Sub-region to improve cooperation and coordination in response to human trafficking. The COMMIT Cambodia Taskforce is chaired by the Ministry of Women's Affairs and co-chair by three ministries: Ministry of Interior; Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation; and Ministry of Justice.

Multi-stakeholder coordination at sub-national level:

The Royal Government of Cambodia, and especially the Ministry of Women's Affairs, is working to improve legal response, coordination of service providers and accessibility and quality of services for women victims/survivors of GBV and their children.

Multi-stakeholder coordination mechanisms were established by the Ministry of Women's Affairs at provincial and district levels –with support from GIZ, UNFPA, UN Women and ACCESS Programme of Australian Government- to enhance response and case management of state and non-state actors through:

- Criminal-justice coordination meetings, which are organized at provincial level 3 times a year to improve justice response to GBV cases. Prosecutors lead the meetings in cooperation with Provincial Department of Women's Affairs, Judicial Police Officers and NGOs' lawyers while other key stakeholders also participate (e.g. judges, Court officers, police and sub-national government officials from line ministries mainly interior (MoI), health (MoH) and social affairs (MoSAVY).
- Provincial service providers' coordination meetings, which are taking place regularly under the leadership of PDoWA in 8 provinces for an exchange of information and blockages in cases of GBV. Representatives from police, NGOs, PDoH, PDoSAVY, provincial court and other relevant provincial departments also join and share information
- District service providers' coordination meetings, which are taking place monthly in 8 districts. Deputy district governors are normally leading these meetings while district officers of Women's Affairs and commune women and children's focal persons also participate.

D. Data and research

The Royal Government of Cambodia has given strong priority to the accomplishment of researches and internationally-recognized surveys in order to respond to Violence Against Women and Girls more effectively. These studies have helped the Government to understand the scope and magnitude of Violence Against Women and Girls as well as to facilitate evidence-based policy making.

During the reporting period, findings and data from a number of quantitative and qualitative studies have been used by the Royal Government of Cambodia for decision making and programming which are as follows:

- The *National Survey on Women's Health and Life Experiences* (2015) was carried out by the National Institute of Statistics and the Ministry of Women's Affairs in cooperation with a number of line ministries and with support from development partners (WHO, UN Women and DFAT).
- The *Violence Against Children Survey* (2014) was conducted by the National Institute of Statistics of the Ministry of Planning and coordinated with UNICEF and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It was conducted through strong cooperation, partnership and commitment from a multi-sectoral steering committee comprising thirteen ministries and government agencies. A list of 89 Core Commitments derived from the survey's findings was endorsed by the ten ministries and three government agencies. The process to develop a National Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against Children has been also initiated.
- The *Cambodia Demographic Health Survey 2014* –launched by end 2015- contains a module on domestic violence with data on marital violence prevalence. This survey was undertaken by the National Institute of Statistics (Ministry of Planning) in cooperation with key line ministries (such as the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Women's Affairs) and with support from development partners (such as UNFPA and DFAT). \

- The ***Cambodia Gender Assessment 2018*** was undertaken by the Ministry of Women's Affairs with support from development partners and in cooperation with line ministries and NGOs to inform on the status of women in Cambodia and provide a comprehensive overview of gender in all sectors. One of its chapters is focused on Violence Against Women and Girls.
- In 2015, a study undertaken by UN Women with support from the Ministry of Women's Affairs assessed the **practice of mediation in VAW cases**, which is used widespread in Cambodia. The study recognizes that mediation processes need to be substantially improved in order to better protect the rights and needs of women.

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