



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATION RELIGION KING







***Progress in Mainstreaming
Gender in Cambodia and
Problems to be Solved***

East Asia Gender Equality Ministerial Meeting

"Towards Gender Equality in East Asia"

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***Significant progress has
been achieved in
mainstreaming gender in
Cambodia. . .***



I am please to report to this very distinguished group that significant progress has been achieved in mainstreaming gender in Cambodia in recent years.

MDG indicators expanded to sharpen the focus on gender inequalities

- MDG 3: Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women
 - *Eliminate gender disparities in adult literacy*
 - *Eliminate gender disparities in waged employment in all sectors of the economy—particularly the service sector*
 - *Eliminate gender disparities in public institutions—beyond the National Assembly*
 - *Reduce significantly all forms of violence against women*
- MDG 2: Achieve universal primary education
 - *Expanded to nine years basic education including eliminating gender disparities in enrolment*
- MDG 5: Improve Maternal Health
 - *Increase access to reproductive health services*
 - *Improve maternal nutrition*
- MDG 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
 - *Reduce the vulnerability of married women to infection*

We were able to significantly expanded the MDG indicators to sharpen the focus on gender inequalities:

MDG 3 (Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women) is aimed at eliminating gender disparities in the social, political and economic spheres of life. In Cambodia, the global indicators for MDG 3 were greatly expanded to focus increased attention on gender concerns which are particularly important in Cambodia.

- In addition to indicators on gender equity in all levels education and literacy rates of 15 to 24 year olds, an additional indicator was added on gender equity in literacy rates for 25 to 44 year olds—the prime child-bearing and working-age group.
- The global indicator on waged employment in the non-agricultural sector was expanded to cover each of the three main sectors of the economy—agriculture, industry and services. This is particularly important as women are greatly under-represented in the service sector in Cambodia
- The global indicator on the proportion of seats held by women in the national parliament was also expanded to cover all elected bodies (National Assembly, Senate and commune councils) as well as senior government positions (ministers, secretaries and under-secretaries of state, and provincial governors and vice governors).
- A new target was added which focuses on reducing all forms of violence against women and children—reflecting growing concerns related to domestic violence, trafficking in persons and other forms of gender-based violence.

Gender-sensitive indicators were also added to other MDGs including indicators related to:

- Maternal health (MDG 5) focused on access to reproductive health services and improving maternal nutrition; and,
- HIV/AIDS (MDG 6), particularly related to the increasing vulnerability of married women to infection.

While the indicators for poverty reduction (MDG 1) could not be sex-disaggregated as poverty is measured at the household level, poverty in Cambodia has a distinct gender-face which is clearly reflected in the indicators of the other MDGs.

Gender-responsive measures integrated into priority government-donor Joint Monitoring Indicators

- Joint Monitoring Indicators:
 - *Key indicators monitored in quarterly government-donor meetings*
- 2005 gender-responsive JMIs:
 - *Integration of gender into the NSDP 2006-2010 (achieved)*
 - *Passage of a law on domestic violence (achieved)*
 - *Strengthening of legislation on trafficking in persons*
- 2006 gender-responsive JMIs:
 - *Strengthening of legislation on trafficking in persons*
 - *Development and implementation of a domestic violence prevention plan*
 - *Engendering the Organic Law on Decentralization and Deconcentration*

Gender-responsive measures have also been integrated into priority government-donor Joint Monitoring Indicators

Joint Monitoring Indicators are key measures that the Royal Government and its external development partners have identified as priorities at annual Consultative Group meetings. As progress on these indicators are monitored quarterly in government-donor meetings, the JMIs provided a powerful mechanism for moving forward the policy agenda towards increased gender equality.

In 2005, three out of the ___ JMIs focused on gender-responsive measures:

- *Integration of gender into the National Strategic Development Plan for 2006 to 2010*
- *Passage of a law on domestic violence*
- *Strengthening of legislation on trafficking in persons*

Two of these three measures were achieved.

In 2006, we are focusing on three measures, including the one carried forward from 2005:

- *Strengthening of legislation on trafficking in persons*
- *Development and implementation of a domestic violence prevention plan*
- *Engendering the Organic Law on Decentralization and Deconcentration*



Gender mainstreamed in the National Strategic Development Plan 2006-2010

- Gender is an overarching aspect in the NSDP: ***“Factor poverty reduction and gender concerns in all activities”***
(1st of 9 overarching aspects)
- Gender-responsive measures integrated into many parts of the NSDP

Gender was successfully mainstreamed in the National Strategic Development Plan for 2006 to 2010.

In particular, gender was identified as an overarching aspect of the NSDP—the first of nine overarching aspects states: ***“Factor poverty reduction and gender concerns in all activities”*** and gender-responsive measures have been integrated into many parts of the plan.

As line ministries work on expanding the policy framework provided by the NSDP and developing comprehensive strategies and plans, the statement on overarching aspects and the sector-specific gender-responsive measures will provide tremendous leverage in our advocacy efforts with line ministries.

*Many challenges
remain. . .*



While we are extremely pleased with the progress which has been achieved to date, **many challenges remain.**

Mainstreaming gender in strategies and plans

- **Mechanisms:**

- *Legal framework*
- *Implementation mechanisms*
- *Tangible programs*

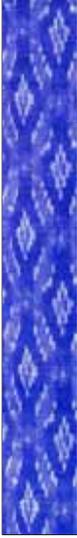
- **Priorities issues:**

- *Eliminating all forms of violence against women*
- *Expanding women's economic opportunities*
- *Increasing gender equity in access to public services (e.g., health, education)*
- *Expanding the role of women in decision making*

The National Strategic Development Plan provides a broad policy framework and sectoral priorities for the next five years. These need to be further elaborated by the relevant line ministries into comprehensive sectoral strategies and detailed plans of action.

Within the framework of the NSDP the Ministry of Women's Affairs is focusing on ensuring that the legal framework, implementation mechanisms and tangible programs are in place to address gender concerns in four key areas:

- *Eliminating all forms of violence against women* including domestic violence, trafficking in persons and rape.
- *Expanding women's economic opportunities*—working in close cooperation with the relevant government institutions, the private sector and society organizations to increase access to enterprise development services and support for women in micro and small enterprise; and, to ensure safe economic migration.
- *Increasing gender equity in access to public services—particularly health and education*—focused on filling gaps in existing programs.
- *And, expanding the role of women in decision making.* The up-coming commune council elections scheduled for and the national elections scheduled for are critical opportunities for enabling more women to engage in policy formulation.



Moving from plans to effective implementation

- **Cultivating commitment**
 - *National*
 - *Line ministries*
 - *Local government*
- **Building capacity to mainstream gender**
 - *Government*
 - *Civil society*
 - *Private sector*
- **Ensuring adequate resources are available**
 - *Introducing gender-responsive budgeting concepts within the context of Public Financial Management reform*

In order to move from plans to effective implementation, three elements are essential:

Strong **commitment** needs to be cultivated at all levels of decision making. The Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, Samdech Hun Sen, together with other senior officials, has greatly facilitated keeping increased gender equality on the national policy agenda. We are also actively working to cultivate increased understanding of and commitment to gender equality within line ministries and local government.

There is also a need to build **capacity** within institutions—government, civil society and the private sector—to conduct gender assessments and formulate and implement technically-sound gender-responsive policies and programs.

Clearly, **adequate resources** are needed to undertake the measures needed to build commitment and capacity, and develop and implement gender-responsive policies and programs. We have been working in close collaboration with the Ministry of Economy and Finance, and the Supreme National Economic Council to introduce gender-responsive budgeting concepts within the context of Public Financial Management reform.

Monitoring progress

- **CMDG indicators**
- **NSDP monitoring framework**
- **Identifying emerging gender concerns**
 - *Sex-disaggregated national statistics*
 - *Research to fill gaps in understanding*

We also need to be able to systematically monitor progress towards increased gender equality:

The **CMDGs** provide a good framework for monitoring key indicators.

As the **framework for monitoring the NSDP** is developed we will work to ensure that gender-sensitive indicators are part of the monitoring framework.

We need to continue to ensure that national statistics are sex-disaggregated and commission research as necessary to fill gaps in understanding of **emerging gender concerns**.

Thank you!



A good deal of progress has been achieved in establishing the policy framework for increasing gender equality in Cambodia. A great deal more will be needed to ensure that these policies are translated into effective action.

I very much look forward to learning from the experiences of other countries towards *"Achieving Gender Equality in East Asia"* over the next two days.

Thank you!