Cambodia: Strengthening Country Systems for Prevention and Response to Gender-Based Violence in Cambodia

Project Name
Strengthening Country Systems for Prevention and Response to Gender-Based Violence in Cambodia

Project Number
57085-001

Country / Economy
- Cambodia

Project Status
Proposed

Project Type / Modality of Assistance
- Grant

Source of Funding / Amount
Grant: Strengthening the National System for Addressing and Preventing Gender-based Violence in Cambodia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<td>Asian Development Fund</td>
<td>US$ 10.00 million</td>
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Operational Priorities
- OP1: Addressing remaining poverty and reducing inequalities
- OP2: Accelerating progress in gender equality
- OP6: Strengthening governance and institutional capacity

Sector / Subsector
- **Public sector management** / Law and judiciary - Public administration - Social protection initiatives

Gender
Gender equity theme

Description
The proposed project will support the RGC in its commitment to reduce GBV in line with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5 on gender equality, specifically to eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, through proven and novel approaches across the continuum of prevention, mitigation, and response. The project will: (i) strengthen existing legislation, (ii) enhance public financial flows for the implementation of GBV prevention and response at national and subnational levels, (iii) increase the quality and accessibility to essential response services, including expanding the network of GBV multidisciplinary response groups and their capacity, with a focus on underserved regions, and (iv)
refurbish existing shelters. It will also support the establishment of GBV data management systems required for policy and budgetary decisions. The project will provide support to increase awareness of laws and available services, reporting and care-seeking behavior, community engagement, and the use of digital technologies to amplify access to information, education and communication resources in order to enhance prevention.

Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy

In Cambodia, about 21% of women aged 15-49 years have experienced physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence at least once in their lifetime. Gender-based violence (GBV) is an extreme manifestation of unequal power relations, rigid gender norms, and discrimination. It affects women across social strata and especially women in rural areas, women with disabilities, indigenous women, migrant and garment workers, and the LGBTQI+ community. GBV is exacerbated by outdated legislation and weak enforcement capacity, limited data to inform policy and insufficient allocation of public funding for GBV prevention and response interventions. Response and referral services are affected by limited coordination among relevant agencies (e.g. health, social services, police, legal services). The country has a total of three shelters to accommodate GBV survivors and their families that are in various states of disrepair. People affected by GBV have limited access to information on how to report abuse and where to seek help. Cambodia has put in place national action plans as frameworks to address violence against women (NAPVAW) since 2012 that have been key to draw policy-makers’ attention to the issue. Nonetheless, GBV remains widespread and tolerated, with low awareness among the general population of rights and response options. While investment in GBV prevention and response remains negligible, global data suggests that GBV costs countries up to 3.7% of gross domestic product. Costs include lost productivity, public expenditure on health and legal services, criminal and civil justice systems, shelter operations, child protection, and specialist services, among others. Individuals bear physical and emotional impacts, lower earnings and reduced quality of life. As stated in NAPVAW, strategies to respond to and prevent GBV require a focus on legislative reform, national and sub-national planning and dedicated financing mechanisms, survivor-centered multisectoral response services, and multistakeholder and community engagement.

Impact

GBV reduced and gender equality in Cambodia accelerated.

Outcome

Quality and outreach of survivor-centered GBV response services expanded and prevention enhanced.

Outputs

Governance systems for integrated GBV response strengthened.

Institutional capacity for localized GBV response services enhanced.

GBV prevention models promoted, digital solutions leveraged, and knowledge on lessons shared.

Geographical Location

Nation-wide, Banteay Meanchey, Battambang, Kampong Thom, Kampot Province, Otar
Meanchey, Siem Reap

**Safeguard Categories**

Environment  
C  
Involuntary Resettlement  
C  
Indigenous Peoples  
B

**Summary of Environmental and Social Aspects**

**Environmental Aspects**

In compliance with ADB SPS 2009, the proposed environmental safeguards category is 'C as there are only minor civil works for renovation and rehabilitation of three existing buildings that serve as shelters. No project activity will encroach on or adversely impact legally protective or environmentally sensitive sites. No significant adverse environmental impacts are anticipated. Key risks and impacts of the proposed interventions are associated with the renovation works which are highly localized and minimal. Primary adverse impacts will be occupational health and safety hazards, disposal of construction debris, noise and waste management which can be managed effectively by Environmental Code of Conduct during construction works. No significant adverse impacts are anticipated during the facilities operation. The climate risk screening will be conducted, and the adaptation measures will be integrated into project building design and construction.

**Involuntary Resettlement**

The proposed involuntary resettlement category is C, following ADB SPS 2009. There is no IR impact expected during the project implementation as the proposed renovation of shelter buildings is located within the existing premises owned by the CWCC. The mission recommended that the TRTA team prepare a due diligence report for identified proposed subprojects during the project preparation stage. The Due Diligence Report will be updated during the project implementation stage for any changes in coverage or scope.

**Indigenous Peoples**

The proposed project IP categorization is category B for indigenous peoples safeguards. The mission recommended that the TRTA team identify the project scope and target provinces, as both indigenous peoples and ethnic minorities will benefit from the project interventions. The integrated Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework (IPPF) and Ethnic Group Development Plan (EGDP) will be prepared by the TRTA team to guide the preparation of Indigenous People's Plans (IPP) for any subprojects that trigger IP safeguard requirements. The IPPF provides guidance to ensure that IPs (i) receive culturally appropriate social and economic benefits, (ii) do not suffer adverse impacts because of project interventions, and (iii) can actively participate in the subprojects and interventions. The EGDP aims to mitigate the risks that Ethnic Groups may not be able to fully participate and capture the same level of project benefits as the majority Khmer, a situation which could, if not mitigated, increase their vulnerability.
The project will not involve activities that require broad community support. Depending on the project scope and identified project areas, the integration of the Ethnic Minority Group Development Plan is necessary to ensure that all ethnic minority survivors benefit from the project. The mission visited CWCC shelters in Phnom Penh and Siem Reap province. Both centres report the services provided to Indigenous People, Ethnic Minorities, foreigners visiting Cambodia, and other people with disabilities without any discrimination. The mission was informed about the challenges of language barriers, some special requirements for Khmer Islam (prayer room and separate kitchen), and response to children under 18 years of age.

**Stakeholder Communication, Participation, and Consultation**

During Project Design
During Project Implementation

**Contact**

Responsible ADB Officer
Mendizabal Joffre, Veronica

Responsible ADB Department
Climate Change and Sustainable Development Department

Responsible ADB Division
Gender Equality Division (CCGE)

Executing Agencies
*Ministry of Women's Affairs*

**Timetable**

Concept Clearance  
12 Mar 2024

Fact Finding  
29 Apr 2024 to 28 May 2024

MRM  
-

Approval  
-

Last Review Mission  
-

Last PDS Update  
15 Mar 2024

**Funding**

Project Page  
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