



Kingdom of Cambodia

Nation Religion King

Cambodia Country Report

**The 11th ASEAN & Japan High Level Officials Meeting on Caring Societies
Theme “Active Ageing”
3-5 December 2013, Tokyo, Japan**

**Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation
Ministry of Health
Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training**

Prepared by:

- ❖ **H.E. CHHAY VANNA** Under Secretary of State
Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation
- ❖ **H.E Dr. SENG SAKDA** Director of General Labour
Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training
- ❖ **Dr. YOS PHANITA** Deputy-Director General for Health
Ministry of Health
- ❖ **Mr. HOL PHAL** Director of Department of Elderly Welfare
Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation
- ❖ **Dr. KONG NARITH** Chief of ASEAN Affairs Bureau
Director of Department of International Cooperation
Ministry of Health
- ❖ **Mr. KHIM SOSAMRACH** Assistant to Director General of Labour
Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training

I. Social Welfare Sector

1. Background

Cambodia has areas of 181.035 square kilometer and the total population is over 14 millions, the proportion of elderly persons among the general population is increasing from year to year. Before 2000, the number of elderly persons was 4.4 % among all population and increased to 880 000 persons (eight hundred thousand and eighty thousand persons) or 6.4 % of the total number of population in 2008. However, this number was predicted almost to double and there will be 1.5 million old people in 2025. Per capita income is around 1000 dollars in 2013.

The Kingdom of Cambodia is Prosperous Country and majority of Cambodia population are farmers who are living in rural areas with culture, traditionally friendly and supportive of each other

However, war and a genocidal regime have severely shattered the country. The national social infrastructure, culture, traditional and social morality which used to be good, has severely declined. Trauma, the loss of spouses, children and relative, and in particular, the deprivation of their rights, dignity and honor has been in the heart of the Cambodian population for a full generation.

These are causes affecting the daily livelihood of Cambodians' of all ages in this generation. Physically and mentally disabled people, orphans without any support and poverty are heritage which the social affairs sector has to deal with.

The Government of Cambodia is under the wise leadership of Samdech Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the has ended the war forever, the country has been rebuilt within a peaceful be achieve 1998 under win win policy and safe atmosphere nation-wide and many achievements have been made in all sectors and development.

The New Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) bas on political platform of the fifth legislates and the “Rectangular strategy phase III“ especially its central theme of “**Growth, Employment, Equity and Efficiency** “

2. Cambodia is a signatory to the Madrid International plan of Action on Ageing

(MIPAA) adopted on the Second world Assembly on Ageing in 2002. The Madrid plan lists 33 objectives and 117 concrete recommendation, grouped into three priorities: **(1)older person and development;(2) Advancing health and wellbeing into old Age; (3) Enabling and supportive environment.**

3. Overview of policies strategies’ plan and Frameworks in Cambodia

Cambodia has policies related to the Elderly. These are policy on Pension Fund for veterans and civil seven endorsed in 1987, Ministry of Social Affair Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation implement the policy pension fund to retired government official, and government official who are frail and according the national economic development, the National Policy on the Health care for Elderly and Disable people establish in 1999, and the National Policy for the Elderly (NPE) adopted in 2003. These policies need to be reviewed to reflect socio-economic and demographic changes of the country. The Royal Government of Cambodia has issued a sub-decree dated 15 July 2011 on the establishment of an inter-ministerial Committee for the elderly which is charged to reviews policies and framework on ageing. The Cambodian National Committee for Elderly is mainly tasked to maintain the spirit and celebration of the International Day for the older people, to promote, develop and steer ageing sensitive policies and framework, to put in place structure and programmer that are adapted to the social and economic context of the country to address old age needs, to coordinate the implementation of specific measure ensuring an equitable protection to older people and to promote best practices. The National Committee for the Elderly is composes of senior official from line ministries; manage by the Minister of the Social Affairs and Horner Chaired by Samdech Hun SEN Prime

Minister. Recently, Ministry of Social affairs Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation is working on another framework a draft “Law On The Social Security for The Citizen of the Kingdom of Cambodia ” to expand the social security and welfare service on general population, including the elderly.

4. RGC Policy in supporting Older People’s Association (OPAs)

- RGC has developed laws, royal decrees, sub-decrees and regulations aimed to promote the well-being of older people and to address their challenges and needs, and has encouraged the establishment of older people’s associations at the community level across the country by one commune one older people association so far there are 569 OPA has been establish.
- The establishment and management of Older People Association is a local mechanism recognized by RGC and provides care and service for old people so that they are able to participate in local development work and programs in their communities.
- The association of older people is a local community based organization; its aim is to promote old people’s well-being through their activity which provide benefits for them, their families, their communities and their commune/sangkat where they live.
- Government Monasteries, Cambodian Red Cross, National Committee for Disaster, religions sites Bayon TV fund, NGO and private sector played in important role in talking care of the elderly and homeless older people to provide food cloths materiel building home and provide services social welfare and heath as well as during the flooding, disaster and social problem.
- Ministry of social affair has been providing and building houses for poor veterans and people with disability.
- Government has been establishing the center veterans with disability to support the veterans and their families.

5. Enhance Social responsibility

The Government of Cambodia seeks to promote a better quality of life through the provision of health service and care for Ageing Person.

The Ministry of Social Affairs Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation in Cooperation with Help Age International has been supporting older People by Implement the program home care and the communities care for ageing.

In 2005 Help Age International Supported by ROK-ASIAN had have implemented the volunteer-based home care for poor and needy elderly persons. It promoted and independent life for the poor older people in the community by providing home care service through volunteer visiting older people's home to care for them.

6. The Situation of older people and Challenges

- Today's population of older age Cambodians are survivor of decades of chronic conflicts, older women are predominant.
- Many of older people live in the rural areas where service are not sufficient yet, the literacy level is low as a consequence of the past conflicts.
- Health problem of the elderly is likely to be related to chronic illness and mental trauma more than communicable diseases.
- Some older people have limited knowledge together with traditional idea that older people should have less work, engage only in housework and pagoda activities and that often they do not feel comfortable with poor sight, hard of hearing, difficult in travelling, make them lost the full opportunity in participating in the community development activities in sharing their experience and problem with their local communities where they lived.
- Female older people bear a heavy family burden in taking care of their grandchildren as their parents migrated to other far away places to find work or as

a result of their parents' divorce or death from HIV/AIDS, traffic accidents, or their illnesses, and so on

- Older people, who live in rural areas, have low education and have limited knowledge of hygiene and health.
- Although the traditional of respecting, Caring and looking after older people still exist in Cambodian families, the ability to support them remains limited and this force some of them to find solution of their problem on their own in regard to making daily income and the money support depend on their child and family.

7. FURTHER PLAN OF ACTION

- To promote social safety for all elderly especially needy elderly in the community.
- To develop service for welfare of the elderly
- To build up capacity and improve professional skill for government staff working with elderly welfare.
- To research analyze on group and situation living for Elderly.
- Continue to set up more new policy on elderly according economic development.
- Promote to establish **Law on the Social Security for the Citizen of the Kingdom of Cambodia.**
- Strengthening and operation with ASEAN member Countries Japan China Republic of Korea on the programs caring for the Elderly.

II. Health Sector

The Government to Ministry of Health in collaborate with IOs and NGOs provide medical support to the Elderly in the community

The Ministry has promote and care for the health of elderly by providing education on illness affecting the elderly like hypertension, diabetes, heart disease, stomach trouble, respiratory ailment, eye, cancer and promoting the need for the hygiene and a clean environment.

Public health infrastructures are organized into basic health centers, district referral hospitals, provincial hospitals and national health facilities. Hospital

services are structure into Complementary Package Activities – CPA namely CPA 1, CPA 2 and CPA 3. The provincial and capital hospitals are related CPA 3 with majors surgeries and specialized services.

Health Center and Health Post stay close to the communes and villages where people live and work. Under current operation, these levels provide vaccination services, primary health education and organize referrals of the patients.

As the country emerged from recent war and chaos, the health services have been structure around rehabilitation, infection disease response such as malaria, TB and AIDS and maternal and health strengthening. Age related disease such diabetes, metabolic chronic disease and high blood pressure are recent emerging public health issue and are often not diagnosed. The emerging non infection diseases, particularly affecting older age population, are increasingly pressing in.

Future Plans

The Ministry of Health will provide for the technical training to personnel on care of the elderly in the community as well as to ensure the sufficiency medicines for the elderly.

The Government will continue provide free medical treatment to the needy elderly and poor people for those who are unable to support themselves.

III. Labour Sector

1. National Social Security Fund

The Pension scheme, as stated in the Law on the National Social Security Fund (NSSF), is applicable for those workers under the Labour Law which was adopted and entered into force in September 2002. The objective of this Law is to establish social security fund including pension scheme, occupational risk and other contingencies that shall be determined by Sub-decree based on the actual situation of the economy.

The pension scheme prescribed by this law shall be under the management of the NSSF which was formulated by Sub-decree No. 16 dated 2 March 2007. The NSSF is a public entity, with the mission of providing public services in social manner, technically under the Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training and financially under the Ministry of Economy and Finance. The NSSF started its implementation at the end of 2008 and divided its work into 3 consecutive steps namely occupational risk, health care insurance and pension scheme. The NSSF's roles are to provide social security services to those workers prescribed under the

Law on social security schemes for persons defined by the provisions of the Labour Law. This includes registration for its members, collecting contribution, managing fund, and preparing and giving benefits to its members or employers.

2. Strategies and Future Plans

The NSSF implements health care insurance in 2013, while the pension scheme will be implemented in 2015. The plans to implement the pension scheme (2011-2020), are as follows:

Possibility of creating pension scheme: An analysis, based on the data from the social economy, plays an important role in creating pension scheme and preparing working group to study on the roles, functions, and legal regulations.

Capacity building for effective and convincing implementation of the pension scheme through participation and organizing conferences, study visits and local and international trainings.

Prepare legal regulations essential for the implementation of the social scheme such as defining modalities, registration procedure, contribution rate, and benefits, etc.

3. Private Volunteering Pensioners

The Royal Government has been paying great attention to providing social security services to Cambodian people through the preparation to launch pension scheme for civil servants, employees and Cambodian citizens. At the same time, the Royal Government is preparing necessary legal framework and regulations to develop volunteering pensioners for private officers or companies.

4. Future Cooperation with and among ASEAN Countries for the Aging Population

This kind of scheme is not available in Cambodia yet. We hope that the 11th ASEAN & Japan High Level Official Meeting will provide us with understanding and experience for paving way for any kind of this future scheme in Cambodia. Anyway, the Old Age Pension Scheme for employee in private sector is under consideration to be established in 2015.