2014 Joint Research between The Asia Foundation Cambodia and KWDI

Strengthening National Policy Research Capacities in the Field of Gender Equality in Cambodia

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Korean Women’s Development Institute(KWDI) is a government-affiliated think-tank under the Prime Minister’s Office of South Korea. It has contributed to realizing gender equality, improving women’s social participation and welfare and advancing family life and state through comprehensive researches on women’s policies.
Foreword

Gender equality is one of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) set by the international community. With an increasing emphasis on the role of gender in development assistance, South Korea, an emerging donor and member of the OECD/DAC, has been expanding its efforts to support gender equality and women’s empowerment in its development assistance.

Since 2011, the Korean Women’s Development Institute (KWDI) has been leading a multi-year ODA research project titled, “Strengthening Gender Equality Policy Infrastructure in the Asia-Pacific Region. This research project aims at establishing a political and social infrastructure for gender-equal policy in the Asia-Pacific region. KWDI partnered with Cambodia and Indonesia for the first phase of the project (2011-2012). For the second phase (2013-2014), KWDI is cooperating with Myanmar and Vietnam while continuing to work with the first two countries. During the last three years of this ODA research project, KWDI realized the important role of timely analysis on local women’s policies and issues in partner countries.

As a part of the aforementioned ODA research project, KWDI has conducted several joint researches on local women’s policies with three of our partner countries, Indonesia, Vietnam and Cambodia.

This study would not have been possible without the contribution of the Asia Foundation Cambodia that conducted this joint research on strengthening national policy research capacities in the field of gender equality in Cambodia. We would like to express our gratitude to Silas EVERETT, Robin MAUNEY, PAK Kimchoeun, HOEUNG Sopheap for their commitment.
It is expected that this joint research will provide much needed evidence to policy makers in Cambodia. We hope this joint research will eventually lead to an advance in development of women’s policies in our partner countries.

Myung-Sun Lee, Ph.D.
President
Korean Women’s Development Institute
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Abbreviations

ANROWS  Australia’s National Research Organisation for Women’s Safety Limited
CDC     Council of the Development of Cambodia
CDB     Commune Database
CDRI    Cambodia Development Resource Institute
CDHS    The Cambodia Demographic and Health Survey
CEDAW   Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women
CRC     Convention on the Rights of the Child
CRM     Coordinated Response Mechanism
CSES    Cambodia Socio-Economic Survey
CVACS   Cambodian Violence Against Children Survey
D&D     Decentralization and Deconcentration
DP      Development Partner
DFAT    Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
GADC    Gender and Development Cambodia
KWDD    Korean Women’s Development Institute
LBT     Lesbian, bisexual and transgender
MARYP   Most at risk young people
M&E     Monitoring and Evaluation
MoP     Ministry of Planning
MoWA    Ministry of Women’s Affairs
NAPVAW  National Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against Women
NIS     National Institute of Statistics
NPA STSLS National Plan of Action Suppression of Human Trafficking, Smuggling, Labour Exploitation, and Sexual Exploitation
NCDD    National Committee for Sub-National Democratic Development
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>NGOs</td>
<td>Non-government organizations</td>
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<tr>
<td>NIS</td>
<td>National Institute of Statistics</td>
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<tr>
<td>ODI</td>
<td>Overseas Development Institute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P4P</td>
<td>Partnership for Prevention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUC</td>
<td>Pannasastra University of Cambodia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RUPP</td>
<td>The Royal University of Phnom Penh</td>
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<tr>
<td>STIs</td>
<td>sexually transmitted infections</td>
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<tr>
<td>SNA</td>
<td>Sub-National Administration</td>
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<tr>
<td>TWGG-GBV</td>
<td>Technical Working Group on Gender Subcommittee on Gender Based Violence</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNSCR</td>
<td>United Nations Security Council Resolution</td>
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<td>UNCRPD</td>
<td>United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNDRIP</td>
<td>United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People</td>
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<tr>
<td>VAC</td>
<td>Violence Against Children</td>
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<td>VCS</td>
<td>Village Commune Safety Policy</td>
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<tr>
<td>VAW</td>
<td>Violence Against Women</td>
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<tr>
<td>WHO</td>
<td>World Health Organization</td>
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<td>WPS</td>
<td>Women Peace and Security</td>
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Introduction
The Asia Foundation in collaboration with the Korean Women’s Development Institute (KWDI) seeks to identify a strategy to strengthen national policy research capacities in the field of gender equality in Cambodia. This research will complement KWDI’s multi-year ODA research project titled “Strengthening Gender Equality Policy Infrastructure in the Asia-Pacific Region”.

This research was conducted by providing analysis on the draft 2nd National Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against Women 2014-2018 (2nd NAPVAW) which promotes the use of evidence based-strategic interventions to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls. It has three main objectives: (1) analysis of research required to implement the 2nd NAPVAW; (2) analysis of existing policy research capacities for 2nd NAPVAW; and (3) recommendations for strengthening the research capacities for implementing the 2nd NAPVAW.

This joint research is conducted at a time when the need for evidence-based research among government policy-makers is particularly high. In the 2013 election, the ruling party lost more than 20 parliamentary seats to the opposition. Significant pressure has put the Government to take actions including raising salaries for civil servants and tackling corruption. This has resulted in an environment where Government is requiring more evidence to support policy recommendations. Ministers require more information to formulate policy, and facts and analyses to base their responses to media and to parliamentarians, especially those from the opposition party. The leadership level of Government also needs more input from independent research groups to better understand the implementation and impacts of specific policies.
Conceptual Framework
The main purpose of policy research is to use evidence to influence policy level decision making. For this to happen, additional capacity is needed. According to Overseas Development Institute’s (ODI) framework for effective policy research (2011)\(^1\), certain types of functional capacities must exist at both individual and institutional levels, including:

- Production and use research;
- Mapping of the political context;
- Communication with different audiences;
- Networking and community building; and
- Monitoring, evaluation and learning.

This paper applies the ODI paper into Cambodia’s context, focusing on the different roles, research needs and capacities that different actors have in order to contribute to the implementation of the 2\(^{nd}\) NAPVAW. As will be discussed later, those actors including Government actors, development partners/donors, research institutes, universities, non-government organizations (NGOs), and private consultants. Their roles, on the other hand, range from setting research agenda, conducting research, and disseminating research findings for policy advocacy purposes. These actors, and their roles, are inter-dependent and operate in networks. Meanwhile, the framework used by Australia’s National Research Organisation for Women’s Safety (ANROWS) on the National Research Agenda to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children is also applied to guide on the research priorities for the 2\(^{nd}\) NAPVAW.\(^2\)

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1) ODI (2011). Developing capacities for better research uptake: the experience of ODI’s research and policy in development programme.
Methodology
The research employs a standard research process which includes a desk review and key informant interviews, followed by analyses and report writing.

**Desk Review:** This task includes the review of the 2nd NAPVAW and other Ministry of Women’s Affairs (MoWA) policy documents. Other documents reviewed are population surveys, research studies related to program areas of the 2nd NAPVAW, and analyses of the current research capacities in Cambodia.

**Key Informant Interviews:** The interviews were conducted with the following informants:

- State actors: The Ministry of Women Affairs (MoWA), the National Committee for Sub-National Democratic Development (NCDD); the National Institute of Statistics (NIS) which is a part of the Ministry of Planning (MoP);
- Development partners: UN Women, UNDP, GIZ, Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), and ActionAid;
- Research institution: Cambodia Development Resource Institute (CDRI);
- Universities: The Royal University of Phnom Penh (RUPP) and Pannasastra University of Cambodia (PUC);
- Local NGOs: Gender And Development of Cambodia (GADC) and Open Institute; and
- Individual consultants, both local and international.

**Analysis and report writing:** Based on the desk review and key informant interviews, analysis was done using the above analytical framework (informed by the ODI paper) as a guide. From the analysis, specific recommendations are drawn.
IV

Background of 2nd NAPVAW

1. Policy Context
2. Summary of Current Research Findings on VAW in Cambodia
3. 2nd NAPVAW Development Process
4. Policy Objectives of 2nd NAPVAW
5. Guiding Principles of the 2nd NAPVAW
1. Policy Context

The Royal Government of Cambodia has made significant strides in developing a policy environment to respond to violence against women (VAW). The development of laws and policies has been a priority for the past decade and significant efforts have resulted in a solid legal framework to address VAW. These laws and policies are being implemented with visible success and resulting positive social change but gaps and challenges remain.

Following are key national and international laws, policies and agreements.

- The Cambodian Constitution enshrines the right of all Cambodians to life, personal freedom and security (Article 32), and guarantees there shall be no physical abuse of any individual (Article 38).
- The Law on Prevention of Domestic Violence and Protection of Victims 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.
- Sexual harassment and indecent behaviour in the workplace is prohibited by Article 172 of the Cambodian Labour Law.
- The Law on Suppression of Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation establishes the law against kidnapping persons for labour or sexual exploitation.
- The Village Commune Safety Policy (VCS) designates rape, domestic violence and anti-trafficking as priority areas for commune, municipal, district and provincial councils to address.
- The Civil Code was completed in 2006 and the Civil Procedure Code in 2007. The Criminal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code were completed in 2010.
- The Law on Regulating Concentrated Acid was completed in 2011.
• The 2\textsuperscript{nd} National Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against Women (2\textsuperscript{nd} NAPVAW) was finalized in May 2013 and awaits formal approval by the Council of Ministers.
• The 2\textsuperscript{nd} National Action Plan on the Suppression of Human Trafficking, Smuggling and Sexual Exploitation is currently being drafted (2\textsuperscript{nd} NPA STSLS).
• In 1992, Cambodia ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and its optional protocols which sets out the basic human rights that boys and girls have, 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).
• Cambodia has ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), which includes Article 6 specifically addressing women with disabilities, to respond to the multiple discriminations they face, as well as Article 16 addressing freedom from exploitation, violence and abuse.
• Cambodia has supported the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (UNDRIP). Article 22.2 expresses that measures should be taken in conjunction with indigenous people to ensure that indigenous women enjoy full protection and guarantees against all forms of violence and discrimination.
• As member state of the United Nations, Cambodia is bound by all UN Security Council Resolutions (SCR), in particular to the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) related SCR 1325, 1820 and 1888.
2. Summary of Current Research Findings on VAW in Cambodia

In Cambodia, women and girls continue to be subjected to physical, psychological, sexual and economic violence, cutting across all divisions of income, culture and class in their daily public and private spheres.

In contexts where women face additional barriers in access to human rights, protection and justice, they often experience additional risks for VAW. This includes but is not limited to women with disabilities, women living with HIV, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (LBT) women, sex workers, entertainment workers, garment factory workers and other female employees, women who use drugs or whose partners use drugs, women in prisons, indigenous women and women from religious or ethnic minorities (MoWA, 2015: 2-8).

There is no one single cause of VAW in Cambodia. Different forms of VAW are driven by a combination of factors at the individual, relationship, community and societal levels and therefore need to be addressed through a variety of interventions. 3)

Prevalence and Incidence of VAW in Cambodia (MoWA, 2014, 11)

- According to the Cambodia Demographic and Health Survey (CDHS) 2005 (the most recent data), 22 percent of women had experienced physical, sexual or emotional abuse from their spouse. This is down from 25 percent in 2000. 4)

- The Ministry of Women’s Affairs Follow-up Survey showed that victims were reporting decreased levels of spousal violence in all categories of violence. 5)

3) Ibid.
• The Partners for Prevention Study (P4P) on men’s use of violence interviewed 417 women. Of those, 22 percent had experienced physical violence in the past year and 25 percent had experienced physical or sexual violence in their lifetime.6)

• The P4P Study found that 32.5 percent of ever-partnered men had used physical or sexual violence against an intimate partner.7)

• The Cambodia Violence Against Children Survey (CVACS) showed that over 50 percent of both males and females experienced at least one incident of physical violence prior to age 18.8)

• Women with disabilities in the Triple Jeopardy study had the same experience of intimate partner violence as women without disabilities. However, they are more likely to experience physical violence by other household members. Twenty five percent of women with disabilities had experienced physical violence by a household member compared to 11.4 percent of women without disabilities.9)

• CVACS found that 4 percent of females and 5 percent of males aged 18-24 reported at least one experience of sexual abuse before age 18. Perpetrators of sexual abuse are often known to children, with neighbours, friends, boyfriends and family members as common perpetrators of the first incident of childhood sexual abuse.10)

• The P4P Study found that one in ten women reported having experienced sexual-partner violence or rape in their lifetime.11)

7) Ibid.
• In the same study, one in five ever-partnered men had perpetrated rape. The study found that rape is most commonly against intimate partners, with 20.8 percent of ever-partnered men reporting rape of a partner and 8.3 percent of all men interviewed reporting that they had perpetrated rape against a woman or girl who was not their partner.12)

• More than half of all men who committed rape were teenagers the first time they did so; of these, about 16 percent did so before the age of 15, and one in 10 had perpetrated rape against four or more victims.13)

• Gang rape, often of sex workers, is widely recognized as a recreational sex activity among youth, particularly in urban areas. The P4P Study found that out of 8.3 percent of men who raped a non-partner, 5.2 percent were multiple perpetrators or perpetrators of gang rape. The report states this statistic is alarmingly high compared to other countries in the region.14)

• The recent Triple Jeopardy study on women with disabilities in Cambodia showed that 24.4 percent of surveyed women with disabilities had experienced sexual violence perpetrated by their partner, compared to 16.8 percent of women without disabilities; 5.7 percent of women with disabilities have been victims of sexual violence by family members, compared to 1.1 percent of women without disabilities.15)

• The preliminary results of a study with 50 transgender females in the sex industry show that 55 percent of respondents indicate instances of forced or coerced sex, with the majority experiencing multiple occurrences.16)

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12) Ibid.
13) Ibid.
14) Ibid.
15) Ibid.
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- A recent study comparing the experience of abuse and sexual harassment for women working in beer companies that are members of the Beer Selling Industry Cambodia (BSIC)\(^\text{17}\) found that 61 percent of beer promotion workers interviewed experienced some form of sexual harassment in the last 12 months compared to 79 percent of workers in non-BSIC brands.\(^\text{18}\)

- A recent study for the International Labour Organization revealed that one in five women working in garment factories felt they had been sexually harassed or sexually humiliated, and were particularly at risk when they left work and had to walk home along deserted roads, near storehouses or empty areas with no lighting and insufficient policing.\(^\text{19}\)

- A study of 50 transgender sex workers identifying as female or third gender reported that 72 percent had experienced sexual harassment such as unwanted touching or fondling.\(^\text{20}\)

- CVACS found 1.6 percent of females aged 18 to 24 reported receiving money, food, gifts or other favours for sexual intercourse, or performing other sexual acts, prior to age 18.\(^\text{21}\)

- In the study Young Entertainment Workers in Four Cities, female entertainment workers\(^\text{22}\) reported that they commonly experience violence

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17) In October 2006, major businesses in the Cambodian beer market came together to found a professional industry organization called “Beer Selling Industry Cambodia” (BSIC).


22) In the study Life experiences and HIV risks of young entertainment workers in four Cambodian cities, 2012, entertainment workers are defined as direct or indirect sex workers.
and harassment within the context of their work. Clients are the common perpetrators of violence, particularly when drunk or not wanting to use a condom.  

- The same study showed that most female participants’ entry into sexual activity occurred between 14 to 18 years of age and were non-consensual. Approximately one third of the female entertainment workers had their virginity bought and another one third reported being raped or forced to have sex with a boyfriend, stepfather or stranger the first time they experienced sex.

- In the Most at Risk Young People Survey, 37 percent of female most at-risk young people (MARYP) aged 10 to 19, and 52 percent of those aged 20 to 24, had engaged in a commercial sexual relationship in the past year, with rates higher for females in urban areas.

- The CDHS 2010 reports nearly half of women and one-quarter of men aged 15-49 agree with at least one reason which justifies a man beating his wife; one positive trend is that the percentage of women who agree with one reason for wife beating is down from 55 percent in 2005 to 45.7 percent in 2010.

- Overall, compared to 2005, the 2009 MoWA Follow-up Survey shows fewer people find violence acceptable and more people are recognizing that violent acts are illegal.

- CVACS showed that nearly two in five females aged 13 to 17 and one in three females aged 18 to 24 believe that it is acceptable for a husband to

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24) Ibid.
25) MARYP are those who sell sex, those who inject drugs, and young men who have sex with men.
hit or beat his wife under one or more circumstances. Two in five males aged 13 to 17 and more than one in three males aged 18 to 24 endorse a husband’s use of physical violence under one or more circumstances.29) Respondents who indicated the first incident of sexual abuse prior to age 18 occurred in a home were asked if anyone else was at home at the time in order to better understand the circumstances in which violence and abuse take place; nearly one in four females aged 18 to 24 (24 percent) reported that a parent was home and one in five (19.7 percent) reported that a sibling was at home during the first incident of sexual abuse prior to age 18.30)

Acceptance of VAW

• The P4P Study found that 32.8 percent of women and 27 percent of men agree that there are times when a woman deserves to be beaten.31)
• In a qualitative study of men’s masculinity, 100 percent of men think men who use violence are bad and perpetrators should be punished, but 54 percent agree that a man is entitled to be violent if his wife disobeys him.32)
• Rape is seen as less acceptable than spousal violence and is viewed as a crime deserving imprisonment by a majority of Cambodians. In the 2009 Follow-up Survey the vast majority said that rape should be punished by jail for more than three years. Ninety-seven percent preferred prison terms for gang rape and 91 percent for fathers who raped their daughters.33)
• Rape in marriage or by a romantic partner is seen as less deserving of

30) Ibid.
severe penalties. Only 49 percent thought rape should be punished by jail if it was committed by a boyfriend or ‘sweetheart’ and 12 percent said that a husband has the right to force his wife to have sex. For poorer women, the percentages dropped significantly.\(^{34}\)

- While perpetrators may continue their lives without social stigma, the victim is marked as a used and worthless woman, a situation that leads to shame and guilt for women which can force the woman to keep the rape secret; marry the rapist; or leave the household to preserve the family reputation. Entry into sex work may seem their only option to contribute to the family income.\(^{35}\)

- In P4P Study, 18 percent of men and 21 percent of women said that when a woman is raped she is usually to blame for putting herself in a vulnerable situation.\(^{36}\)

- CVACS found that among those who experienced childhood sexual abuse, approximately 49 percent of females and 79 percent of males aged 18 to 24, and 46 percent of females and 87 percent of males aged 13 to 17, had never told anyone about an incident. Females had not reported any incident of sexual abuse because they were afraid to get into trouble, felt the abuse was not a problem, were too embarrassed for either themselves or their family, did not need or want services, or felt the sexual abuse was their fault.\(^{37}\)

- The study *Wise before their Time* links pornography with sexual violence identifying that young boys and girls exposed to highly explicit and violent pornography is causing a premature sexualizing of children’s lives and is teaching young men violent and abusive sexual behaviour.\(^{38}\)

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34) Ibid.
• In the P4P Study, men perpetrating rape acknowledged that the motivations for rape were that they wanted to do it, felt entitled to do it, felt it was entertaining, or saw it as deserved punishment for women. Few men had any consequences or legal sanctions, resulting in a culture of impunity. This lack of legal or social sanctions or penalties for men, together with the attitude that some women are “bad” and deserve such treatment perpetuates these crimes.39)

• Attitudes on gender bias in sexual practices and intimate partner violence did not differ by sex or age, with more than 9 in 10 females and males across ages endorsing at least one negative gender attitude.40)

• Studies are attempting to identify the root causes of VAW/G. GADC’s qualitative study revealed that men are expected to fulfil the roles of head of household, be the breadwinner, be superior to women and girls, dominate over women and be strong and brave.41) The 2012 P4P Study supports this, with 62.6 percent of men and 57.1 percent of women agreeing that men should have the final say in all family matters.42)

• Traditional gender norms result in control over women’s movement. The importance of a woman’s reputation and sexual honour, along with the fear of rape, restricts women’s and girls’ movement and results in less access to education and employment opportunities.43)

• A study analysing data from CDHS 2005 found that a husband’s control could correlate to increased emotional and physical violence.44)

41) Gender and Development for Cambodia (2010). Deoum Troung Pram Hath in Modern Cambodia. Phnom Penh.
43) Strategic Asia (2013). Gender and Human Capital Development. Phnom Penh: UNDP.
• Alcohol consumption is often blamed for VAW. However while alcohol consumption might aggravate arguments to levels where violence occurs, drunken behaviour is more influenced by cultural norms than by the actual pharmacological effects of alcohol itself.45)

Linkages
• In the P4P Study, men’s own experiences of childhood violence, particularly childhood emotional abuse or neglect and witnessing abuse of the mother, were found to have a very large impact on the perpetration of intimate partner violence. Perpetration of non-partner rape was also found to be related to childhood experiences of violence, especially to childhood emotional abuse or neglect and childhood sexual abuse.46)
• Research indicates that the economic and social costs of VAW/G are enormous and have ripple effects throughout society. While VAW/G can have fatal results, such as homicide or suicide, many more women are injured and suffer from a range of health problems.47)
• Poverty studies in Cambodia have shown that VAW/G contributes to movement into poverty due to lost income and assets, the costs of illness and injury, and divorce and family breakdown. Debt and poverty also make women and girls more vulnerable to sexual exploitation.48)

Costs of VAW

- Approximately 20 percent of the women in Cambodia who experienced domestic violence reported that they missed work and their children missed school. More than half the sample also reported emotional distress such as being angry, unable to sleep, anxious, fearful or depressed as the most common effects of domestic violence.49)
- CVACS found that exposure to violence as a child was associated with a range of short-term health consequences, including moderate mental distress, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), self-harm and suicidal ideation.50)

Disclosure and Reporting

- The majority of survivors of VAW do not disclose and seek help from anyone. In the 2009 MoWA Follow-Up Survey, 87 percent of victims of rape reported they did not seek help and 81 percent of domestic violence victims reported ‘keeping quiet’.51)
- CVACS found that among females who reported experiencing sexual abuse or physical violence, many had never told anyone about an incident of sexual abuse or physical violence and few sought help.52)
- A study on Domestic Violence and the Law (of 1,000 women) found that 76 percent of physical violence victims and 68 percent of emotional violence victims never sought help.53)

• In a study on women with disabilities, 68 percent of women with disabilities compared to 43.8 percent of women without disabilities had told no one of violence by their partner.54)

3. 2nd NAPVAW Development Process

The Ministry of Women’s Affairs (MoWA) holds responsibility to develop and coordinate strategies to end violence against women in Cambodia. Toward this effort, MoWA developed the 1st National Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against Women (NAPVAW 2009-2012). In 2011 as the 1st NAPVAW timeframe was ending, MoWA led a nine month process to review the successes and challenges in implementation of the 1st NAPVAW. The 1st NAPVAW was identified as successful at raising awareness of VAW particularly in relation to the Law on Domestic Violence (2005) and placing violence against women (VAW) issues on the development agenda of the Royal Government of Cambodia and development partners. The main weakness of the 1st NAPVAW was identified as the lack of a successful monitoring mechanism.55)

After the completion of the review of the 1st NAPVAW, MoWA with co-chairs GIZ and UN Women led the Technical Working Group on Genders Sub-committee on Gender-based Violence (TWGG-GBV)56) to initiate a process to develop the 2nd NAPVAW.

Ten sub-national workshops were held around the country from September 2012 to January 2013 for line departments, community leaders, women and

56) Membership of the TWGG-GBV is from relevant line ministries, development partners and civil society organizations
survivors to come together to share their ideas and recommendations for ending VAW. Their recommendations, along with other recommendations from various key groups with targeted expertise, were consolidated into a master list of recommendations.

Under the TWGG-GBV, three committees were created: 1) Primary Prevention, 2) Services and Policies, and 3) Monitoring and Evaluation. Each of these committees held meetings with key stakeholders to develop strategies to respond to the consolidated recommendations gathered in the sub-national workshops. With this input, a draft 2nd NAPVAW was developed.

The draft 2nd NAPVAW was further reviewed by key stakeholders, then again reviewed at two national consultation workshops for participants from NGOs, academic institutions, development partners and relevant government line ministries followed by the validation workshop. Technical assistance was also provided from international experts in key sectors. This process resulted in the 2nd NAPVAW draft which is currently at the Council of Ministers in the final states of approval by the Royal Government of Cambodia prior to full implementation.57)

The implementation process for the 2nd NAPVAW will be led by the TWGG-GBV through the same committees (now called groups) that were established in the development of the 2nd NAPVAW. UN Women with the support of the Australian Aid Program is supporting MoWA to provide technical support to develop an overall implementation plan for the 2nd NAPVAW and terms of reference and action plans for each of these groups.

4. Policy Objectives of 2nd NAPVAW

In order to clearly understand the policy objectives of the 2nd NAPVAW, a definition of VAW was required first. During the planning process the TWGG-GBV agreed to draw on two internationally recognized definitions of VAW. These are from two sources:

- General Recommendation 19 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), which defines gender-based violence as predominantly violence against women, and
- The Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA) of the Fourth World Conference on Women that situates this violence against women within the context of gender discrimination and the subordination of women.

These definitions are as follows:

1) Gender-based violence is “violence that is directed against a woman because she is a woman or that affects women disproportionately. It includes acts that inflict physical, mental or sexual harm or suffering, threats of such acts, coercion and other deprivations of liberty.”

2) The term “violence against women” means any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life. Accordingly, violence against women encompasses but is not limited to the following:

(a) Physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring in the family, including battering, sexual abuse of female children in the household, dowry-related violence, marital rape, female genital mutilation and other traditional practices harmful to women, non-spousal violence and violence related to exploitation;

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58) General Recommendation 19 of CEDAW
(b) Physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring within the general community, including rape, sexual abuse, sexual harassment and intimidation at work, in educational institutions and elsewhere, trafficking in women and forced prostitution;

(c) Physical, sexual and psychological violence perpetrated or condoned by the State, wherever it occurs.\textsuperscript{59}

Based on these definitions, the overall priority objective of the 2\textsuperscript{nd} NAPVAW is to reduce violence against all women including those at increased risk\textsuperscript{60} through increased prevention interventions, improved response, increased access to quality services, and multi-sectoral coordination and cooperation.

The 2\textsuperscript{nd} NAPVAW has identified five strategic areas of focus: 1) Primary Prevention, 2) Legal Protection and Multi-Sectoral Services, 3) Laws and Policies, 4) Capacity Building and 5) Monitoring and Evaluation.\textsuperscript{61}

**Primary Prevention:** The objective for primary prevention strategic area is to reduce violence against women through a multi-sectoral coordinated primary prevention strategy targeting key and settings for positive change. Primary prevention interventions are identified as requiring targeting to specific groups that are at higher risk of using and/or experiencing violence in the future with a strategy that promotes positive change in perceptions, attitudes, behaviors, beliefs, practices and social norms. Efforts are also designed to focus on prevention of the negative impact on Cambodian morality, culture, women and

\textsuperscript{59} Beijing Platform for Action, para. 113

\textsuperscript{60} In Cambodia this includes (but not limited to) women with disabilities, women living with HIV, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (LBT) women, sex workers, entertainment workers, garment factory workers and other female workers, women who use drugs or their partners use drugs, women in prisons, indigenous women and women from religious or ethnic minorities.

Khmer family values.

The policy objectives are to develop a coordination mechanism, primary prevention strategy, and implementation strategy with key actors at the national and subnational levels targeting five key settings for changes. Coordination is identified as critical to ensure that efforts to prevent VAW are effective and contribute to one desired goal. A variety of stakeholders have been identified from different sectors that will require being engaged in prevention activities. These include education, child protection, justice, health, economic empowerment, media and social work. The five settings are identified for changes in Primary Prevention: Coordination and Cooperation; Education and Youth; Family and Children; Community and Workplace; and Culture and Media.62)

**Legal Protection and Multi-sectoral Services:** The objective for the legal protection and multi-sectoral services strategic area is to increase the provision of easily accessible, appropriate, quality services, and coordinated response to the varied needs of all survivors of VAW without discrimination.

The policy objectives are to create a multi-sectoral coordinated response mechanism (CRM) at the national and subnational levels that promotes comprehensive responsive services to survivors of all types of VAW. A CRM is a multi-sectoral mechanism that brings together the various sectors responding to violence against women and children to share information, coordinate resources and strategies, increase collaboration and build knowledge and skills.

The CRM members will be responsible for designing a system to coordinate responses and referrals between key actors in different sectors including government, civil society, women’s organizations, religions institutions, service providers youth groups, private sectors, survivors and others. Additionally the priority is to standardize and scale up responses that work. Six settings have been identified for action including Coordination, Primary Counseling, Police Protection,  

62) Ibid.
Laws and Policies: The objective for the Laws and Policies Strategy is to ensure that laws and policies in Cambodia are gender sensitive and designed to protect the rights of survivors of VAW.

Cambodia has made significant strides in developing a legal framework to respond to VAW. These laws and policies are being implemented with visible success and resulting in positive social changes. However, there are identified gaps and challenges, and evidence to understand these are required. The key priority of the 2nd NAPVAW is to review the implementation of these laws and policies to identify any challenges or gaps in both laws and policies to provide a basis for further strengthening required.

Capacity Building: The objective for the Capacity Building strategic area is to increase the capacities and resources of key sectors at the national level on designing, implementing, reporting, monitoring, evaluating, and coordinating VAW response and prevention interventions.

While Cambodia has strengthened its legal framework to respond to VAW, a key gap identified in the 2nd NAPVAW planning process was the low capacity of key actors to respond. This included both state and non-state actors. Key gaps included lack of knowledge about the dynamics of VAW and appropriate strategies for intervention. The priority in this area is to build capacity for improved prevention and response.

Monitoring and Evaluation: The objective of the Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy is to develop a comprehensive system for data collection and monitoring, analysis, and evidence based reporting of VAW in Cambodia and for the implementation of the 2nd NAPVAW.

63) Ibid.
As identified in the review of the 1st NAPVAW, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms of the 1st NAPVAW were weak resulting in an inability to truly evaluate its outcomes.64) In an effort to strengthen the monitoring and evaluation of the 2nd NAPVAW MoWA has worked to strengthen the monitoring system, but further work is required. Two key areas that were identified as priority areas for action are development of a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework and Coordinated Monitoring and Evaluation System.

5. Guiding Principles of the 2nd NAPVAW

In addition to the key strategic areas of focus, the 2nd NAPVAW outlines guiding principles for implementation. These guiding principles are intended to be used in the strategic areas in the process of planning to guide priorities and provide a framework for assessing and evaluation of actions. To be able to fully adhere to these principles will be important that their inclusion in assessing best practice models or actions is considered. These guiding principles are:

**Human rights for all:** Ending VAW is a commitment and action to respect, promote, protect, fulfill, and advance human rights, dignity, and freedom for all. Based on this imperative, this 2nd NAPVAW is an integral part of Cambodia’s commitment to advancing human rights, particularly women’s rights.

**Root causes of VAW:** VAW is understood to be a manifestation of a historically unequal power relationship between men and women that results in a systematic discrimination that subordinates and disadvantages women.

**Early intervention:** Preventing violence against women and girls needs to start early on in a child’s life. Childhood experiences of violence both increase

women’s risk of being a victim of intimate partner and sexual violence, and increase men’s risk of perpetrating intimate partner and sexual violence.

**Empower women and promote gender inequality:** An empowerment approach is to be the center of any intervention in this 2nd NAPVAW in order to enable survivors of VAW to assert their rights by creating an environment to promote women’s status and achieve gender equality.

**Woman- and Survivor-Centered and Empowerment:** The 2nd NAPVAW aims to integrate women’s and survivors’ experiences in all prevention and response interventions and strategies. Central to the 2nd NAPVAW is safety and security of women in both public and private spheres and respect for women’s autonomy and right to make informed decisions.

**Accountability and transparency:** It is critically important that all key actors deliver results and positive changes for which all duty bearers are accountable in a transparent manner. Roles and responsibilities among partners will be mutually defined and delineated. Accountability of perpetrators is also sought through all channels. This 2nd NAPVAW will have a clear monitoring and evaluation framework that ensures quality, efficiency, effectiveness of the 2nd NAPVAW.

**Equal participation, partnership:** The 2nd NAPVAW is developed with a recognition that the plan can only be achieved its desired goals and objectives if it involves partnerships between different stakeholders such as government, civil society, community-based groups, academic and research institutions, development partners, and importantly women, girls and survivors. All stakeholders at different levels – from local to national – must meaningfully participate in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of this 2nd NAPVAW, under the spirit of partnership, cooperation, collaboration, and coordination. It is important that all stakeholders’ voices especially women’s are equally heard.
V

Research Priorities
for 2nd NAPAW

1. Prevalence and Acceptance of VAW
2. Primary Prevention
3. Legal Protection and Multi-sectoral Services
4. Law and Policy
5. Capacity Building
6. Monitoring and Evaluation
## V. Research Priorities for 2nd NAPAW

### Table V-1: Research Priorities for 2nd NAPAW

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2nd NAPVAW Strategic Areas Objective</th>
<th>Areas of Research</th>
<th>2nd NAPVAW RESEARCH TOPICS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prevalence and Acceptance of VAW</td>
<td>Prevalence of violence against women including women with increased risk</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Acceptance of VAW</td>
<td>Factors that permit the acceptance of VAW including links with gender inequality, gender roles, stereotypes and myths, links between different forms of VAW in different settings including between VAW and VAC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary Prevention</td>
<td>Identify risk and protective factors for VAW</td>
<td>Intersection with social inequality, poverty, unequal access to resources, discrimination, culture including impact on perpetration, vulnerability and risk</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Design, evaluation and monitoring of primary prevention strategy and implement programs</td>
<td>Analysis of national and international programs, efficacy and outcomes and links between community attitudes and behaviors subpopulation, impact of media, target of different types of VAW workplace, community, school and home, and programs for perpetrators</td>
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<tr>
<td>Legal Protection and Multi-sectoral Services</td>
<td>Coordination models for VAW prevention, services and response</td>
<td>Analysis of national and subnational mechanisms for coordination of integrated responses between key actors including strengths, weaknesses of existing systems</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Establishment of Minimum Standards for Services including primary counselling and various social services</td>
<td>Analysis of national and international service delivery best practice models to set basic requirements for primary counseling for key actors and programs including meeting needs of sub-populations and women with increased risk</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Barriers to access to services for all women with increased risk</td>
<td>Factors that facilitate and impede disclosure and reporting to various services including health, legal social services particularly women with increased risk Analysis of communication products such as hotlines, internet and campaigns to target increasing access to information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Clarify referral pathway for different types of VAW</td>
<td>Referral pathways mapped and analysis of barriers, bottlenecks Assessment of good practice models and strategies to address barriers and bottlenecks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Local authorities and Police Response to VAW</td>
<td>Analysis of current practices of mediation in VAW cases Identification of international good practice in VAW response including capacity building strategies Understanding of Current Police Response to VAW including the role of female police officers and satisfaction with response Analysis of operational standards and codes of conduct to identify good practice for implementation Analysis of police protocols and guidelines to provide basis for informing training at different levels</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health Response to VAW in the health center and referral hospitals</td>
<td>Analysis of good practice for health care response to VAW including access, cost, identification and referral of VAW in Health System Analysis and development of training resources for health care providers</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal Aid and Access to Justice</td>
<td>Analysis of access and barriers to legal services such as legal aid, MoWA Judicial Police Agents Analysis of available legal services for women that choose to seek justice in the legal system Analysis of barriers to access to justice including protection orders, and institutional barriers such as traditional practices, attitudes, or others barriers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laws and Policies</td>
<td>Law Review</td>
<td>Analysis of current laws on VAW to understand successes and challenges in the legal systems response at all levels to set basis for improvements including laws related to different types of VAW and VAC Analysis of laws to ensure compliance with UNSCR 1325</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy Review</td>
<td>Review the sectoral policies within ministries on the implementation VAW related intervention and recommend improvements to strengthen institutional response to VAW and remove discriminatory practices in alignment with NAPVAW</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Capacity Building</td>
<td>Capacity Assessment and Development</td>
<td>Assess the capacity of all key actors at the National and Sub-national level on the understanding of VAW, cooperation and collaboration skills and understanding of best practices models in their respective sectors.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Costing of services for VAW survivors</td>
<td>Analysis of the financial impact of VAW prevention and response services Analysis of financing strategies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monitoring and Evaluation</td>
<td>Development and implementation of M&amp; E System</td>
<td>Analysis of data sources, availability and accessibility to inform system design that effectively monitors implementation of the 2nd NAPVAW Mid-term review and final evaluation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Completion of prevalence, acceptance of VAW, sub-population issues studies</td>
<td>Analysis of prevalence data as it is gathered for monitoring and secondary analysis of violence against women including women with increased risk</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The 2nd NAPVAW does not identify an overall research agenda, but it indicates a need for a range of research to provide an understanding of current (and future) prevalence of VAW and other evidence to guide policy and program development and implementation. This research will include large scale surveys, small scale surveys, analysis of national and international good practices, baseline surveys, mid-term reviews and final evaluations. Research will be both qualitative and quantitative (or a combination) in nature. Some of the research is planned and on the agenda of ministries, development partners and NGOs. Others are identified but no current strategy for completion.

1. Prevalence and Acceptance of VAW

The overall objective of the 2nd NAPVAW strategies is to reduce violence against women in Cambodia. The 2nd NAPVAW identifies two indicators for overall measurement: a reduction in prevalence and a reduction in acceptance of VAW.

As reported the 2nd NAPVAW does not set out a detailed research agenda, but the need for prevalence data was identified during the 1st NAPVAW and four large scale surveys’ were in process or being initiated during the drafting of the 2nd NAPVAW. It was expected the analysis of this data would help policy makers to better understand the situation of VAW and help to identify further research priorities based on these learnings.

These researches are large scale population surveys that can provide prevalence data in different areas of VAW:

- The P4P Study interviewed 1831 men and 477 women in Cambodia about men’s use of VAW.65) The study was a multi-country study carried out in

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Cambodia as a partnership between UN Women, UNFPA, UNDP, and UN Volunteers and the MoWA in Cambodia. The study results were released in 2013. This study provides significant data on men’s use of violence reported by men. Also in Cambodia the study provides data reported by women as well. This study is a nationally representative sample for men.

- CVACS interviewed 1,121 females and 1,255 males aged 13 to 24 years old about their experiences of violence as children (under 18).\(^{66}\) This study was implemented by the National Institute of Statistics of the Ministry of Planning with the support of MoWA and UNICEF. The study results are to be released in October 2014. The study is expected to provide a deeper understanding about the different types of VAC and some data on links to other types of VAW. Preliminary data has been released and is reported in this report however, further data will be available when the formal report is released.

- The VAW Prevalence Study is currently in the planning process. The study will be led by MoWA and implemented by the National Institute of Statistics of the Ministry of Planning using the World Health Organization (WHO) Methodology that permits comparison of prevalence of VAW cross-countries. The WHO methodology is internationally recognized and will help Cambodia to understand the level of violence against women in Cambodia compared to other countries that have completed the study.

- The CDHS is a survey that is implemented in Cambodia every 5 years. The survey is carried out by the National Institute of Statistics of the Ministry of Planning. In 2000 and 2005, the CDHS included a module on domestic violence that provides data on prevalence of spousal violence and on attitudes of men and women about spousal violence. The CDHS is an ongoing mechanism that can provide prevalence data over time for

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longer term monitoring of VAW as it is not clear if the other prevalence studies will be repeated in future year. This places even more importance on the CDHS as a measure over time to monitor.

Clearly the foremost research priority is to use this rich new evidence to inform the 2nd NAPVAW strategic actions particularly in the areas of Primary Prevention, Legal Protection and Multi-Sectoral Services and Laws and Policies through primary and secondary data analysis. Each of these studies will be important to understand VAW and particularly any issues of women and girls with increased risk and to further identify risk and protective factors contributing to VAW.

The P4P study has already provided data that helped to form the primary prevention strategy for the 2nd NAPVAW and has helped to further the understanding of men’s perceptions of masculinity. Additionally it helped to raise awareness of the alarming rates of gang rape or bauk in Cambodia. When data is available from the additional three studies, significant analysis will be required and will form the basis for further research needs.

While this data will help to inform the current situation, challenges in evidence do remain. While the surveys are significant, they still do not likely gather enough data on subpopulations of women experiencing violence for adequate understanding and analysis. Additionally, the only survey that is ongoing is CDHS and the data generated by that survey is primarily related to spousal violence resulting in a lack of on-going data about other types of VAW. These gaps require further research targeting sub-populations, and planning for future large scale surveys for over time comparison to understand changes in prevalence.

Even though the 2nd NAPVAW does not set out a research agenda per se, its five strategies will require various additional researches to provide evidence for building strategic interventions and documenting progress toward indicators.
This will include a range of quantitative and qualitative researches including on international and national good practice and analysis of existing practices and gaps.

2. Primary Prevention

The Primary Prevention Strategic Area is to be led by the Prevention Group of the TWGG-GBV. This group was initiated during the 2nd NAPVAW planning process. An initial task of the committee is to develop a primary prevention strategy. Recent research in the P4P study and others have informed the prevention strategy but further secondary analysis of existing research is required to better understand the gendered nature of violence against women, identify risk and protective factors for VAW, to build evidence to design and implement prevention strategies. Currently secondary analysis is being carried out by The Asia Foundation on existing data and as new data becomes available from the in process large scale studies further analysis will be required.

To develop a primary prevention strategy an understanding of current good practices in different areas of VAW prevention is also needed. This will require analysis of current international good practices and an analysis of national gaps or good practices to scale up. This targeted scale up will be based on the evidence of relevant risk and protective factors. Program models to be examined include school curriculums, peer group models, parent education programs including positive fatherhood, and programs to non-violent conflict resolution in families and to promote women’s economic empowerment, based on the priority action areas identified in the 2nd NAPVAW.

Additionally researches to understand issues not covered in the larger prevalence studies will be required. This includes small scale studies on issues
such as violence against children in schools, school policies on identifying and reporting violence, sexual harassment, media codes of conduct and police response. The study methods could include small scale surveys and qualitative research studies. While these areas have currently identified as priorities, there is little planned research in these areas.

3. Legal Protection and Multi-sectoral Services

The Legal Protection and Multi-sectoral Services Strategic Area is to be led by the Services and Polices Group of the TWGG-GBV. This group was also set up during the 2nd NAPVAW development process. This group prioritizes promoting a coordinated response mechanism to promote coordination of services to form a community of practice that will bring together both prevention and response efforts at the national and subnational levels.

This will require an analysis of good practice and existing mechanisms to provide evidence to build a coordinated system in Cambodia. Coordination has been identified as a key area for attention and to carry it out effectively at the national and subnational levels, partnerships will be required between state and non-state actors. In reality, many direct services are carried out by non-government organizations, but government ministries hold responsibility for response. And with the current process in Cambodia of Decentralization and De-concentration (D&D) and the priority of the VCS67) to address violence, in practice there must be cooperation from other key state and non-state actors. A key actor is the Ministry of Interior. The Provincial and District Consultative Committees on Women and Children and the Commune Council and Commune Committee on Women, Children and Village Chief are the lowest level of government administration and already have responsibility for coordination of

services. These key actors are charged with responding to VAW in the VCS, but often lack skills or technical capacity to respond effectively.

In addition to coordination, priorities in this area include standardization of services and scaling up of quality programs. Minimum standards of practice are currently being developed in key areas such as primary counseling, social services and health services. In recent research conducted by MoWA key gaps were identified as the lack of standardization of services and lack of access to services particularly in rural areas as services are concentrated in urban centers. As many services have been initiated by non-state actors, often the service models follow the priority of the founder and do not adequately respond to the needs of the survivor of VAW.  

These minimum standards again require analysis of good practice models and evaluation of existing practices. In each of the standards a key area for examination is to ensure that issues for women with increased risk for VAW are addressed in service standards. This will likely required small scales studies on specific target populations and advocacy for inclusion of questions in larger scale studies to identify issues for at risk populations are considered and addressed.

Scaling up of quality programs will need to be based on evidence from evaluations or small scale studies in pilot areas. This includes expansion of all types of services including crisis services, shelter, psycho-social support, legal services and others identified as good models for replication. Recent research identified the programs are scattered and concentrated in urban areas, key actors lack capacity, and coordination was weak.  

As a result, a model was recommended that builds a coordinated response mechanism including a community of practice. This model is being piloted in two provinces by GIZ in cooperation with NGO partners. GIZ is currently in analyzing services in these

69) Ibid.
two target areas and to understand program gaps. To understand its effectiveness, replicability evaluations will be required to provide evidence for scaling up successful services and responses.

Effective response of the local authorities including police is another key area to be addressed in the services and policies strategic area. The practice of mediation has been a primary response to domestic violence at the commune level. When a woman reports domestic violence the local authorities, typically he/she uses a type of mediation to get an agreement for the perpetrator to stop using violence. There is little evidence on the efficacy of this process and as a result few women are given access to the formal justice system. Women are only referred to police in a crisis or when the case is deemed serious (injuries). A qualitative research study to understand the actual effectiveness of this process in the local context will be carried out in 2014/2015 by UN Women.

As identified below police are not always called until the case is in crisis or deemed serious. Reporting crimes of rape or other violence to a woman police officer (rather than a man) is also reported to be easier for victims and could likely increase reporting. Raising police capacity through promoting police training and increasing numbers of female police officers is a priority. To improve responses in this area it will also require improved standards for police response. This will require special research on Police Codes of Conduct, and Operating Standards for Police. It will likely require also some understanding of satisfaction of police response to build evidence for needed curriculum and training gaps for police. To this end, a mapping and review of existing practices and good models will also be required. Additionally, a review of administrative data of the Cambodia National Police can set a baseline for number of female police officers to be monitored for group.
4. Law and Policy

In the Laws and Policies Strategic Area implementation will also be led by the Services and Policy Group of the TWGG-GBV. This strategic area prioritizes an analysis of laws and policies to identify the successes and challenges with implementation of current laws and policies and to identify any gaps. This will require qualitative research on different laws and policies including those related to domestic violence, sexual assault, sexual harassment, trafficking or other VAW including their impact on women with increased risk for VAW.

Some laws slated for review in the 2nd NAPVAW include a review of the Law on the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Protection of Victims particularly the lack of the sub-decree on Administrative Decisions by Local Authorities, standards for mediation, and a review of use (or lack of) domestic violence protective orders; Labor Law and Criminal Codes particularly as they relate to sexual harassment and violence in workplace; and the Law on Suppression of Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation as it relates to investigations and criminalization of sex work.

Some policies slated for review include sector policies in order that respond to VAW. This includes to develop National Guidelines to Respond to VAW in the Health System, reproductive health protocols reviewed to include emergency PEP (post-exposure prophylaxis) to all victims of rape, and emergency contraception and when needed, clinical abortion to women, free of charge and standards for key social services.

5. Capacity Building

Capacity building is a cross-cutting priority in all strategic areas of the 2nd NAPVAW. No specific group is responsible for carrying out capacity building
for all sectors. This essentially means improved capacity of key implementing actors at all levels in implementing, monitoring, reporting, coordinating and evaluating all the different interventions under the 2nd NAPVAW. This requires increasing and mobilizing technical and financial resources on capacity building, supporting capacity development and collective learning initiatives, and strengthening linkages with other sectoral capacity development strategies. This will require capacity assessments, development of training modules and technical assistance in a variety of settings. It will also require coordination with other efforts that are ongoing.

Some areas identified for assessments and capacity development are key areas particularly related to skills for first responders in primary counseling, effective police response, Judicial Police Agents, health care providers, costing of services and capacity for coordination for the TWGG-GBV.

6. Monitoring and Evaluation

The Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Strategic Area will be led by the M&E Group. The initial task of this group is to develop an M&E Plan for the 2nd NAPVAW. A gap in the 1st NAPVAW was the lack of an adequate M&E system. The 1st NAPVAW identified indicators for each action, but the system to monitor was not completed.

As a result a priority strategy for the 2nd NAPVAW is the development of an M&E framework for data collection to monitor implementation and outcomes. MoWA with the support of development partner GIZ has been developing a Data Collection and Monitoring System that was expected to form the foundation of this system. As part of the process for initiating this system, MoWA mapped all the administrative data available with the plan to develop a system to collect the data periodically. The system has been determined to be
too unwieldy as some barriers were identified such as resistance and challenges from other line ministries to provide the data in a timely way. The system is currently being re-evaluated.

For an adequate M&E system to be developed an updated and realistic mapping of data sources, their availability and accessibility will be required for each of the strategic priority areas. It will be important to identify the key areas for monitoring in each strategic area and limit the amount of data collected. This data can then form the foundation of an M&E system that is workable and practical.

In addition to on-going monitoring data, a mid-term review and an end-line evaluation of the 2nd NAPVAW will be required. These two studies are important to measure if the 2nd NAPVAW is on target and its challenges.

As identified earlier no detailed research agenda was set for the 2nd NAPVAW due to the awareness that pending research would likely better inform the research agenda when completed. It is important therefore to ensure that the data from these researches receive the attention and analysis required to develop this follow-up research agenda.

Secondary bivariate and multivariate analysis will be a key research needs as the new data becomes available. While the new data will be important to increase understanding there are still likely gaps particularly related to sub-populations of women with increased risk for VAW. Recently research was completed on women with disabilities and violence, but large scale data is lacking on most sub-populations of women at increased risk. While small studies and anecdotal information show that there are specific challenges that some groups face, there is not adequate data to help to understand how these challenges should be addressed. Some areas for consideration are negative attitudes against some sub-groups, access to services and access to justice. This will likely require targeted research as well as continued advocacy for inclusion in standard research. Additionally research topics are likely to emerge from the new data.
Additionally, at a systems level, additional research is also required. This includes analysis and recommendations of coordination models as identified in the Legal Protection and Multi-sectoral services strategy. Coordination is a key element of the overall 2nd NAPVAW and strategies for coordination at the national and sub-national level must be examined that promote coordination, cooperation and increased capacity of key actors. This will include an examination of the possible mechanisms and an assessment if an existing mechanism can be utilized or if another mechanism will be required. Factors such as competing priorities such as the priority of the CCWC to reduce violence thereby providing a disincentive for reporting must be considered.

Costing of VAW services has been identified as a priority as well. As data becomes available from costing and scale up is slated, identifying strategies for financing prevention, protection and response efforts will be required. This will likely require analysis of current structures and advocacy with donors for a program based approach.
The Roles, Research Needs and Capacity Needs of Key Actors

1. Government Ministries/Agencies 3
2. Donors/Development Partners (DPs) 7
3. Local NGOs 9
4. Research Institutes 1
5. Universities 2
6. Individual Consultants 3
In order to implement 2nd NAPVAW, a number of key actors are expected to play very important roles. These actors are categorized into six types: (i) government ministries/agencies, (ii) development partners/donors, (iii) local NGOs, (iv) research institutes, (v) universities, and (vi) individual consultants. Each key actor is discussed focusing on their roles, research needs and research capacities from their own perspective.

1. Government Ministries/Agencies

The 2nd NAPVAW identifies a number of key ministries who are relevant to the implementation of this action plan. These key ministries are represented on the TWGG-GBV and hold responsibility in prevention or response. However in this research, only the three most important ones were selected for interview: MoWA, NCDD and NIS.

In MoWA, the officials from the Legal Protection Department and Gender Equality Department which are responsible for the implementation of the 2nd NAPVAW were interviewed. While MoWA is the key leader in developing and implementing the 2nd NAPVAW, NCDD, which is an inter-ministerial mechanism for decentralization and de-concentration reforms, plays a very crucial role in mainstreaming gender issues into the work of sub-national administrations and local authorities. At NCDD a gender policy advisor was selected for interview as she holds responsibility for policy analysis, mainstreaming gender into policy, building capacity of councilors in particular female councilors.

Based on the interviews, relevant to this research, these two government agencies have three important roles: to formulate policy, to conduct advocacy with the higher level politicians, and to coordinate with other government agencies, development partners, NGOs and other relevant institutions. For them to fulfill their advocacy and policy-making roles, both MoWA and NCDD claim
they need more and more evidence-based research to help inform their decision-making.

So far, both MoWA and NCDD have been involved in a number of research and data collection work. Currently, MoWA is working with NIS in a few large scale surveys including CVACS; the ongoing VAW prevalence study conducted using the WHO methodology; and CDHS. MoWA partnered with the P4P study and conducted the 2005 baseline and 2009 follow-up attitude studies. MoWA also partners with development partners and NGOs on smaller studies and has initiated research to better understand service models.

NCDD has been managing various databases and producing regular assessment about local development and governance issues, some of which relate to VAW. For instance, it has kept the annually updated Commune Database (CDB) which collects the number of complaints on domestic violence; it has conducted a gender audit study, and participated in a mid-term evaluation on the implementation of CEDAW convention.

NCDD also points to some research topics which are partly related to 2nd NAPVAW in the area of legal protection and primary prevention. Those topics are qualitative analysis on sub-national administration (SNA) female councilors’ participation in politics, sex-disaggregated data on female councilors’ specific functions and gender stereotype in the community focusing on perception of community on how they perceive about women and girls’ attitude and careers.

Research agenda setting, according to key informant interviews, has primarily been driven by donors. However, increasingly, with the Government playing more leading roles and ownership over the 2nd NAPVAW formulation process

70) Interview with MOWA dated September 04, 2014
71) A gap identified in the 2nd NAPVAW is the lack of disaggregation by type of domestic violence in the database
72) Interview with NCDD dated September 08, 2014
73) Ibid.
and priorities, MoWA’s voice has become more influential. However, the donor’s program or agenda is still a key factor in setting research. Donors, being the funders of virtually all research works, also decide who should be contracted to implement selected research, i.e. government, NGOs, local researchers, or international consultants. In a few cases and depending on some donors, to ensure government ownership and transparency, government also gets involved in advertising, recruiting and interviewing consultants to carry out research.

Within the Government, another important actor on statistical and research matters is the NIS which is a part of the MOP. Within the NIS, the research team met and interviewed with the Census Department, which has a more than 100 staff members, and a few senior staff who has strong background in designing and conducting large scale surveys. So far, NIS supported the design, data collection and analyses for various large scale surveys including the CDHS, CVACS, Cambodian Socio-Economic Survey (CSES), and the ongoing prevalence study (supported by WHO) on VAW. These surveys and studies include variables on VAW and other types of violence. For the ongoing prevalence study, the NIS is working in close collaboration with MOWA and WHO in designing key aspects of the study, including sampling, questionnaire design, enumerator training and will support data analyses.  

Key informants from donor agencies are appreciative of NIS’s work and intend to promote its role in research but indicate that to ensure quality works, NIS still needs technical assistance and continuous monitoring and quality controls from relevant development partners. Training on related basic concepts such as those on gender based violence and specific methodological and ethical issues also need to be provided to the enumerators, some of whom are NIS staff, some are externally recruited.

As indicated earlier, one of the main roles of MoWA is to advocate with the

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74) Meeting with Head of Gender Equality Department dated October 14, 2014
75) Meeting with DP representative, September 03, 2014.
higher level politicians to give priority and resources to address gender related issues. However, interviews so far suggest that MoWA has had difficulty in performing this particular role, due to a number of key reasons. First, as indicated earlier, MoWA still has limited influence due to limited capacity76) in promoting research topics which have often been shaped by donors’ and NGOs’ agenda. Second, much research that has been conducted have small sample sizes, i.e. less representative, which tend to be less effective in capturing and convincing policy-makers of their results. Thirdly, there has not been sufficient attention and resources to turn final research products written in English into Khmer products, which are more accessible, both in term of length and simplicity of content, for Cambodian policy makers and general public. And some reported that even if reports were in Khmer, sometimes government authorities lacked the ability to understand the reports or were not committed. The finished product becomes the report instead of implementing the findings. This is a challenge identified due to consultants carrying out research and not working closely with the government during the process.

Finally, not all key policy issues can be influenced by research, regardless of how good or evidence-based they are. For instance, concerns were raised about challenges not in formulating but implementing policies. These challenges, it is observed, are caused not by lack of evidence but other major constraints, particularly, low incentive for government officials and other political economy factors, such as corruption, and political will to reform.77) However, as indicated in the introduction, since the 2013 election, the Government has been under more pressure to raise salary for government officials, tackle corruption, etc.

76) Ibid.
2. Donors/Development Partners (DPs)

As of 2014, there are 37 donors working on various projects in Cambodia, of which 10 are working on gender related projects including project on ending violence against women, partnership for gender equity, promoting gender equality and women’s empowerment, strengthening protection and promotion of women's rights and women's social and economic empowerment and other projects. Many of the 10 donors are expected to play key roles in supporting the 2nd NAPVAW, including: supporting relevant government agencies, advocacy with the Government. With their funding, DPs have been influential in setting research agenda and deciding how and who should conduct the research.

Donors have been funding all kinds of research, including: big scale quantitative surveys (e.g. CDHS, prevalence studies, etc.), qualitative studies, specialized research (e.g. the costing of the NAPVAW, political economy of law enforcement response to VAW). The research touches various topics on gender including, for instance, relation between VAW and VAC, women’s economic empowerment, women’s and men’s perception toward VAW, vulnerable populations such as women with different risks, women with disabilities, sex workers, women in prisons and other vulnerable groups.

Although most of the mentioned research has been done in partnership either with government, NGOs or with other donors, their scope and focus tend to reflect the specific agenda of the funding donor. However, increasingly, donors are observed to also try to increase policy relevance of their funded research.

Donors do not conduct research by themselves. Instead, they hire local or international consultants, local NGOs or universities to carry out research based on the agenda they have set. There is no official data on the number and profile of individual consultants, both local and international, working on

78) This information is available at http://cdc.khmer.biz/OwnReport/own_report_result.asp?initPage=0&CurrenType=USD &ReportTitle=Report%20Title (Last visit on September 13, 2014 at 8:10 pm)
development issues, gender included, in Cambodia. However, it is noted that, while the number of competent local consultants has been increasing, the need for international ones is still obvious, partly as a requirement by donor agencies, and partly because of the gap in local expertise.

Most of the donor agencies interviewed considered local research capacity as still limited especially in terms of in-depth analysis and conceptual framework, while international consultants, though having international/regional practice and conceptual framework, lack local context and can take significant time to adapt to the local context. In this case, joining partnership between local and international consultants has been identified as a good approach.

Some DPs also focus on capacity building and trying to mobilize competent local researchers/organizations. It is also a way to give implementation and ownership to national organizations. However, some also indicated that it will also depend on the nature of research and the funding. When the research does not require more analytical thinking (particularly for recommendations) such as survey, local consultant or research firms are preferred. When the research involves larger funding, it was said that it is often a condition that international consultants are engaged.

Most of DPs interviewed have their program/project based-office in relevant ministries. For instance, within several donors have their offices/staff working in MOWA. This approach has put those donors in a better position compared to other local NGOs as they can work closely and regularly with government officials and key decision makers. As a result, their influence on policy issues has also been enhanced. The donors share research finding through various meetings, workshops, publications and through discussing directly with influential individuals within the Ministry. One of the successful policy impacts raised by a DP is that they can use their research findings to influence the prevention component of the 2nd NAPVAW and also work with MOWA related to policy planning and implementation.
3. Local NGOs

According to the Cambodia NGO Database of Council of the Development of Cambodia (CDC), the total number of NGOs in Cambodia is 1,726 of which foreign NGOs are 574 and Cambodian NGOs are 1,152. However, among the total number, only 528 are active. The same database indicates that these NGOs are working on 20 different sectors/sub-sectors, one of which is gender. Available data suggests that as of 2014, there are 19 NGOs working on gender issues.

In this study due to limited time frame two well-respected NGO were interviewed that work on gender and conduct research: the Gender and Development of Cambodia (GADC) and Open Institute. In the case of GADC, besides implementing the various projects, it also works on advocacy and capacity building for partner Government agencies, not only at the national but also local authority and youth. It has received funding from various donor agencies and worked closely with MOWA and Ministry of Interior, especially the Cambodian National Police (CNP). GADC also conducts research in addition to the various baseline and evaluation surveys for its projects. In the case of Open Institute in addition to its various projects, it works on promoting information sharing and communication toward the goal of women’s empowerment for social change. Open Institute has also received funding from various donor agencies and works closely with MoWA and has conducted research.

Although donors play important roles in setting research agenda, there has also been some rooms for NGOs like GADC or Open Institute to come up with their own research topics and write proposal for funding from prospective donor

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79) This information is available at http://cdc.khmer.biz/ngo/summary/summary.asp
80) These sectors include health, education, agriculture, manufacturing, rural development, banking and business services, urban planning and management, information and communications, energy, power and electricity, transportation, water and sanitation, community and social welfare, culture and arts, environment and conservation, gender, HIV/AIDS, government and administration, tourism, emergency and food aid, climate change and others.
agencies. However, once the proposal is accepted, many NGOs like GADC or Open Institute, with limited in-house research capacity, hire local or international consultants to perform the actual research. In certain cases, their own researchers might join and learn from the consultant team.

Decisions to hire international or local consultants depend on the nature of the research, funding availability and the donor’s requirement. However, local NGOs claimed to prefer local consultants as a way of building their capacity and to mobilize local resources to the fullest.

Due to limited financial resources, research commissioned by local NGOs are mostly of small sample or medium sample (e.g. with 100-500 interviewees). As mentioned earlier, studies with small sample have had hard time getting attention from the Government. However, sample size is not the only factor that matters when it comes to advocacy with Government. The Government is more likely to accept research findings if it had been engaged from the beginning of the research process. One good case was a research on women and information and communication technologies (ICT) in employment and education sector conducted in 2010 by the Open Institute organization which received recognition and strong support from MoWA for this research has big enough sample size and also got involvement from both government officials and other NGOs since the beginning of the research process.

However, the interviewed NGOs indicate that when the research topic is too sensitive and involves politics, it is difficult to get engagement and buy-in from the Government. Despite some improvement in the overall political atmosphere, NGOs (and other researchers interviewed) still find it ‘uncomfortable’ or even dangerous to conduct and disseminate research on sensitive topics relating to politics or corruption. This, the research found, is one key constraint that many researchers in Cambodia still face.
4. Research Institutes

There is no recorded data on the number of research institutes in Cambodia. However, from the authors’ knowledge about research work in the country, the only research institute that does is not attach to any universities and that seems to get most attention from government agencies, including MoWA, is the Cambodian Development Resource Institute (CDRI). It seeks to produce and independent, high quality policy-relevant development research aiming to maximize its accessibility to policy makers and make policy impact. CDRI is a unique organization in term of funding and human resources. Its annual funding is said to be more than one million dollars and it has almost 50 researchers, most of whom hold high degrees mostly from abroad.

Although reflected in its work plan, gender is not the main research focus for CDRI. In the last 10 years, the research has not consistently built research expertise around gender issues and research funding support for the topic has been very limited. However, gender is said to have been mainstreamed in other research works such as on local politics, climate change, the environment. Still, mainstreaming of gender is limited. CDRI plans for gender to be more explicitly addressed in its emerging research on higher education and the role of youth.

CDRI undertakes its research in partnership with government agencies, development partners, universities and NGOs. Part of its research agenda is driven by the Government policy. However, CDRI depends on project funding support from donors. As a result, at least part of its research agenda is donor-driven. As raised by key informant, there is still need for international consultants who have good grasp on gender concepts and analytical framework to guide and to join and build research capacity of local researchers.

Despite its unique potential, CDRI’s work has been said to have low policy impact mainly because of its weak linkage with ongoing policy discussions.
While CDRI has established good relation at ministerial level or prime minister, the relationship is more about general networking rather influencing specific policies. For instance, CDRI has had very limited involvement in the drafting of the NAPVAW or any other major gender related policies. Its connection with the NCDD relating to decentralization has also been weakened.

5. Universities

Currently, there are 105 higher education institutions in Cambodia of which 39 are public institutions. Based on the interviews with two lecturers from two well-known universities (RUPP and PUC), universities in Cambodia also promote research and research skills among its teaching staff and students. However, due to budget constraint, not many universities conduct their own research, let alone conducting research related to gender. In a few cases, universities might also take on consultancy work commissioned by donors or NGOs.

CDRI report (2011) found that there are three reasons explaining low research activities in Cambodian universities. First, it is due to cultural tradition in Cambodia where teachers lead and students follow passively. Second, university research has not received significant or concrete emphasis in Cambodian national policy. Finally, the national budget is mainly allocated for basic education, not for higher education (university) and research.

However, the recent demand for reform has led the Cambodian government to pay attention to evidence-based research. The recently adopted policy on higher education vision 2030 (2014) includes a strategy which seeks to ensure that academic staff and students contribute to improving research and

development culture in Cambodia to serve national development needs. Yet, how much national budget allocated to achieve this strategy is still questionable.

Donors have also sought to promote research within universities in Cambodia. The World Bank project entitled “Higher Education Quality and Capacity Improvement Project (HEQCIP) 2010-2015,” for instance, provides grants to both public and private universities to strengthen their capacity and to provide enabling conditions for improved quality in research. However, as raised by key informants, the information on the availability of the grant or how to apply for it has not been widely disseminated. Gender, it is noted, is not considered one of the priority areas.

In the current context, it is unrealistic to expect university lecturers to influence policy matters of the Government. Instead, they should play more roles in broadening knowledge and building research skills of students and in promoting culture of research. Being lecturers, conducting research is also part of a personal commitment. However, university staff are paid by hours they teach, therefore there is no much incentive for research.

6. Individual Consultants

There is no existing data on the overall number of individual consultants, international and local, working on development issues in Cambodia. However, from the interviews and the authors’ personal experience, there have not been many of them around. Yet, it is observed that the number of local consultants might have been increasing in the last few years, due to increasing number of students graduating with Master or PhD degrees in social science from abroad. In most cases, individual consultants, both international and local, although some of them are associated with an institution or universities, work individually, applying for and undertaking specific short term (1-3 months)
consultancy projects advertised on newspapers or commissioned to them through their established networks with development partners or NGOs.

There are two types of international consultants working in Cambodia. The first one are expatriates who have been working in the country for a long time (10 years plus) and have established conceptual and contextual understanding around specific issues such as gender. These consultants tend to have certain advantages over their local counterparts including: their technical expertise, their understanding about local context (although only to a certain extent), access to or ease of connection with development partners, knowledge about regional/international practices, and in few cases trust from key government policymakers.

The second type of international consultant is those who fly in and out of the country for specific short term (less than 1 month) assignment. These people, while having good theoretical and conceptual understanding over certain technical areas, tend to not have good contextual understanding about the country.

One other advantage enjoyed by international consultants in addition to English proficiency required to write reports for funding agencies, is that they also have more freedom to write or express opinions on sensitive issues without much concern about their being ‘noticed’ by the Government.

Local consultants, on the other hand, tend to be more knowledgeable about local context and skillful in collecting sensitive information on certain issues. More and more local consultants equipped with education from abroad have built their theoretical, analytical and writing (in English) skills. Their weaknesses however are: lack of knowledge about regional and international practices, limited access or connection with key development partners as well as high ranking policy makers. There are only a few local consultants who have also managed to build good relationships with the Government and obtain insider information around certain policy and political issues. Local consultants, while knowledgeable about local reality, are constrained in term of what they
can write or publish about sensitive issues relating to politics and governance.

Capacity building opportunities for local consultants have been limited to on-the-job training and coaching from their international partners (who in most cases act as their team leaders) and to attending occasional regional workshop where regional experiences are shared. In most cases, local consultants have to constantly strike a balance of getting enough works by diversifying their research fields and focusing/deepening their expertise on specific areas.
Conclusions
Clearly the 2nd NAPVAW provides rich opportunities for research that can impact policy in Cambodia. The process was participatory and the 2nd NAPVAW has wide support between ministries for its actions. While its’ approval was delayed due to the 2013 election, its approval is expected in the coming weeks. Even though it has not been approved significant action has begun on its’ implementation. The groups for implementing each of its’ strategic areas have been re-ignited, and action plans are being developed. A priority will be to ensure that each of the committees considers the research and evidence needs for the particular strategy.

While there is no overall research agenda set out by the 2nd NAPVAW, the overall objectives and strategic action objectives identify evidence based research. This will require large scale surveys, small scale surveys, mappings of good practices, baseline surveys, mid-term reviews and final evaluations. To successfully carry out the required research coordination between line ministries, DPs, NGOs and researchers will be required. Competing agencies and priorities sometimes limit coordination.

A key priority is to complete the research and analysis the recent and on-going large scale studies including the CDHS 2015, the CVACS 2014, the MoWA Prevalence Study and the P4P Study on Men’s Use of Violence. Primary and secondary analysis of these studies will provide an understanding of current prevalence of VAW and other evidence to guide policy and program development and implementation.

With the findings from these studies will add to the knowledge base, they are likely not adequate to fully inform the situation of VAW in Cambodia. Most other current research is fragmented and sector based. A research agenda should be developed that targets gaps in knowledge with particular attention to sub-populations and women at increased risk.

Each of the five priority areas for action in the 2nd NAPVAW has identified indicators and means of verification for the outcomes that require evidence.
Some of these researches are planned and others just proposed. During the 2nd NAPVAW implementation planning process it is important that each group consider the research needs and identify strategies and plans for carrying out the plans.

As an understanding of the cost of responding to VAW becomes available through costing exercises, analysis will also be required to develop financing strategies for implementation of services. This will require specialized skills and analysis.

Coordination has been identified as a key strategic action in all priority areas, and research will be required on effective coordination models and analysis of their efficacy in the Cambodian context. This will include a sensitive analysis of the current structures and capacities at the subnational level.

A critical element to preventing and responding to VAW is an enabling policy environment. The 2nd NAPVAW calls for an analysis of current laws and policies. As reported in the policy framework section significant policies have been created. Their implementation must be evaluated and a strategy to implement the recommendations will need to be developed. This should be based on the analysis and in the context of international good practice including UNSR 1325 and other international laws and standards.

Efforts have been made to develop an adequate monitoring and evaluation plan for the 2nd NAPVAW but further work is required to design a practical and manageable system. The system must significant enough to access good data to monitor, but practical enough to work. It must also include a mid-term review in order to re-adjust strategies as needed. This will be key to effective implementation of the 2nd NAPVAW. A final evaluation should be initiated in time to inform the 3rd NAPVAW.

Government ministries have typically not set the research agenda and have basically worked with development partners to carry out their research priorities as the government lacks its own research funds. Additionally much of the
research completed is of small sample size and challenging for the government to use effectively.

Not enough attention has been paid to translating research into Khmer and disseminating its findings in a way that can influence policy. This limits the ability of the government to apply research to policy development resulting in missed opportunities and wasted resources.

Development partners contribute significantly to research, but typically fund their own research priorities. Many development partners report they are not yet confident of the research capacities in Cambodia. Particular areas of concern are the ability for analysis of findings and development of recommendations. Development partners often prefer a partnership approach although some cited examples of quality national researchers.

Local NGOs have some room to set their own research priorities, but most carry out research based on donor priorities. Local NGOs prefer to use national researchers when appropriate to build capacity if possible. Another benefit is that local researchers often charge less and NGOs can afford. The benefit is the local researcher knows the Cambodian context well.

One challenge is the studies conducted by local NGOs are often of a small sample size. Another is that if the topic is sensitive there can be risk to the NGO (or the individual researcher) as the government does not necessarily accept the findings.

The major research institutions in Cambodia do not have a clear focus on gender or VAW and lack capacity on policy analysis.

University based research is also lacking. The lack of funding, priority for institutions has limited this type of research. Universities have worked like NGOs in that they compete for research projects from donors, but few carry out independent research. Some efforts by multi-lateral organizations have promoted increased capacity, but these have not been targeted to gender research.

While the number of local consultants has been increasing in the last few
years, they still have weaknesses in terms of knowledge about regional practice and being constrained to speak out about sensitive issues. On the other hand, international consultants have both conceptual and contextual understanding (for those who have been working long time in Cambodia) and they can also express their opinion on sensitive issue without much concern.
Recommendations

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1. On Research Priorities

To ensure that the data and information required is gathered to successfully implement the 2nd NAPVAW strategies, significant research will be required. This ranges from large scale survey’s to small scale qualitative studies. The 2nd NAPVAW identifies data needed but does not set out a specific research agenda.

Based on these rationales, the following recommendations are proposed:

• During the development of the 2nd NAPVAW implementation strategy process each group should identify research that is required and identify the strategy for carrying it out. The research agenda would then be set by a multi-sectoral body of line ministries, development partners and NGOS. A clear priority of the 2nd NAPVAW is increased coordination and this is important in the area of research to ensure the needed knowledge is gathered to end violence against women. This will require line ministries, DPs and NGOs to work together effectively and increase gender analysis.

• A VAW research agenda should be developed that targets gaps in knowledge with particular attention to gender, sub-populations and women at increased risk. The research agenda setting is an on-going process that should be informed by the learnings as they become available from existing researches. This is likely to mean additional research is warranted as gaps are identified.

• MoWA should have its own VAW research budget in order to effectively set the research agenda based on the knowledge requirements of the 2nd NAPVAW.

• VAW research should be supported that further develops secondary analysis of new data particularly the new prevalence studies as their findings become available and should support large scale projects that are seen as credible by policy-makers.
• VAW research should be supported to understand good practices (nationally and internally) and strategies such as prevention and program responses, coordination mechanisms, funding strategies, and policies.
• VAW research partnership should include DPs, NGOs and Government to ensure buy in and support, but caution that this can limit the independence if the research is sensitive. DPs or NGOs can sometimes take research “risks” to learn and raise awareness about sensitive issues.

2. On Research Capacities

To ensure high relevance of the research work for the 2nd NAPVAW, Cambodia needs not only capacity to conduct research but also to identify relevant topics/questions and ways to effectively disseminate research finding to influence policy debates. In the current setting, while different actors have played these different roles, the key actor is still donor agencies who have influence not only on the research agenda but also how the selected research should be implemented. Donors, with their funding, can also contribute to building local research capacity for conducting research of state and non-state actors.

Based on these rationales, the following recommendations are proposed:
• Partnerships should be encouraged between DPs, NGOs and Government to use the strengths of each to build national research capacities. DPs and NGOs should link their to-be-funded research agenda with specific issues raised by the 2nd NAPVAW and coordinate their efforts in developing an overall national VAW research agenda. Should new research topics emerge, their rationales in term of relevance to the 2nd NAPVAW should be established and communicated to relevant Government agencies to establish ownership and buy-in. Government engagement should also be established early on in each research process.
• National researchers should be encouraged to participate in future research so that they can contribute based on their strengths (e.g. knowledge about local context, knowledge about existing studies and data availability) and build their capacities by learning from partner international experts in their areas of weaknesses (e.g. conceptual analysis and international/regional experiences).

• Existing research institutions, organizations and individual researchers should increase capacity on gender analysis.

• In addition to seminars and workshops, research findings should be prepared into more accessible Khmer products using formats such as key messages. This requires that the cost of producing Khmer publications/dissemination materials be factored into overall research budget.

• Media, including social networks such as Facebook, should be more strategically used to disseminate to the wider public, especially young people.
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