

Social Institutions and Gender Index

Cambodia

SIGI Country Profile

19 of March 2024

SIGI Country Profiles are produced by the OECD Development Centre

The information and analysis contained in this profile are based on data from the fifth edition of the Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) published in March 2023. The cut-off date for legal data is 31 August 2022; the cut-off date for quantitative data is 1 January 2023.

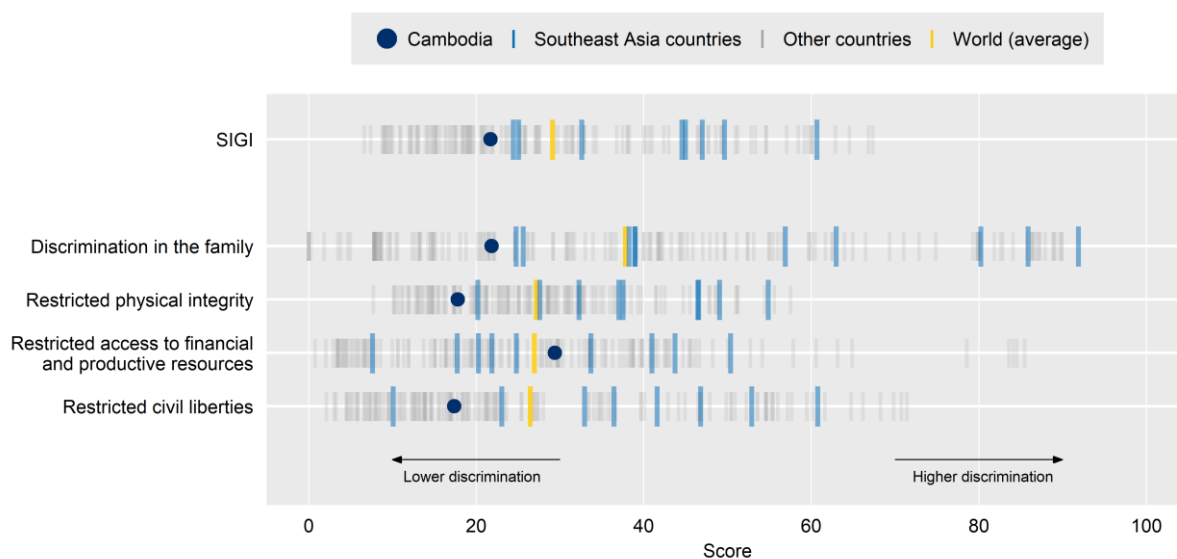
Suggested citation: OECD Development Centre (2023), "Cambodia SIGI Country Profile", *SIGI 2023 Country Profiles*, OECD, <https://oe.cd/sigi-dashboard>

Social institutions in Cambodia

The state of gender equality in Cambodia

The SIGI 2023 profile for Cambodia provides a comprehensive overview of the state of gender equality in the country, as measured by the OECD's Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI). The fifth edition of the SIGI, released in 2023, assesses 140 countries based on the level of gender-based discrimination in their social institutions. These discriminatory social institutions encompass both formal and informal laws, as well as social norms and practices that restrict women's and girls' access to rights, justice, empowerment opportunities and resources, thereby undermining their agency and authority.

Figure 1. SIGI and dimension scores for Cambodia, 2023



Note: Scores range from 0 to 100, with 0 indicating no discrimination and 100 indicating absolute discrimination. The Southeast Asia region covers Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam.

Source: OECD (2023), "Social Institutions and Gender Index (Edition 2023)", *OECD International Development Statistics* (database), <https://doi.org/10.1787/33beb96e-en>.

In 2023, Cambodia obtained a a SIGI score of 22 denoting low levels of discrimination, compared to an average score of 39 in Southeast Asia, denoting medium levels of discrimination, and a world average score of 29 (Figure 1).¹ The country obtained a score of 29 in the "Restricted access to productive and

¹ Levels of discrimination in the SIGI and its dimensions are assessed based on scores as follow: very low [0-20]; low [20-30]; medium [30-40]; high [40-50]; and very high [50-100].

financial resources” dimension, followed by “Discrimination in the family” (22), “Restricted physical integrity” (18) and “Restricted civil liberties” (17).

Legislative framework in Cambodia

The Cambodian legal system has evolved from unwritten customary law to statutory law. Today, it is a mixture of Cambodian customs, French-based civil law – inherited from the period of French colonisation – and common law system which results from foreign aid assistance to Cambodia’s legal and judicial reforms.² The Constitution of Cambodia³ does not refer to customary law but Article 52 specifies that “the Royal Government of Cambodia shall protect the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Kingdom of Cambodia, adopt a policy of national reconciliation to ensure national unity, and preserve good customs and traditions of the nation.”

Articles 31 and 45 of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Cambodia of 1993, as amended, recognise and prohibit multiple and intersectional discrimination – which constitutes an essential element to enhance gender equality. Cambodia ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)⁴ in 1992, without any reservations.⁵ Article 31 of the Constitution stipulates that the country recognises and respects “human rights as stipulated in the United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the covenants and conventions related to human rights, women’s rights and children’s rights.”

Gender-disaggregated, gender-relevant and intersectional data and indicators are essential to better identify policy areas that have strong linkages with gender. In Cambodia, Chapter 3 of the Law on Statistic of 2005, regulates the production and dissemination of gender statistics.⁶

Positive highlights and significant challenges since the fourth edition of the SIGI

Positive highlights

Cambodia presents a strong national legal framework that protects women’s rights in most areas of their lives. The law grants women and men equal rights in the area of the family, and also grants them equal rights to own and use critical economic assets – land and non-land assets as well as financial services. The law also generally grants women and men equal civil and political rights.

Significant challenges

Although Cambodia establishes the legal age of marriage at 18 years for both boys and girls, the law contains exceptions. Moreover, in practice, child marriage remains an issue in Cambodia, especially as arranged marriages are still deeply rooted in traditional customs. In the private sphere, women continue to bear the brunt of responsibilities at home. Women dedicate 3 hours per day to unpaid care and domestic

² Council of ASEAN Chief Justices (n.d.), *Cambodia*, <https://cacj-ajp.org/cambodia/>.

³ Kingdom of Cambodia (1993), “Constitution of the Kingdom of Cambodia”.

⁴ United Nations (1979), “Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women”, *Treaties Series*, vol. 1249, United Nations, New York, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-elimination-all-forms-discrimination-against-women>.

⁵ United Nations (2023), “Status of Treaties: Chapter IV - 8. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women”, *Treaty Collection*, United Nations, New York, https://treaties.un.org/pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=IND&mtdsg_no=IV-8&chapter=4.

⁶ Kingdom of Cambodia (2005), “Law on Statistics”, *Royal Kram No. NS/RKM/0505/015*.

tasks compared to 0.3 hour for men, which limits their time to engage in other activities. Women's role is also limited in the public sphere. The law does not mandate political gender quotas to promote women's political representation at the national or local levels, which translates into women's under-representation in decision-making power positions. In 2023, women only account for 31% of employees in a managerial position, and 21% of the members of parliament.

Cambodia does not have a dedicated law addressing all forms of violence against women and the legislation covers different forms of violence (such as domestic violence or sexual violence) in separate or general pieces of legislation – including the Law on Prevention of Domestic Violence and Protection of Victims (2005), the Law on the Suppression of Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation (2008), or the Criminal Code (2009). A large part of the population normalises domestic violence and socially accepts it, with 46% of Cambodian women aged 15-49 who think that it is justified for a husband to hit or beat his wife under certain circumstances.

Summary of results for Cambodia

Discrimination in the family	Unit	Value
Laws on child marriage	Score	50
Girl child marriage rate ¹	%	15.6
Boy child marriage rate ¹	%	3
Laws on household responsibilities	Score	25
Share of the population that agrees or strongly agrees that “if a woman earns more than her husband, it is a problem”	%	-
Share of the population that agrees or strongly agrees that “when a mother works for pay, the children will suffer”	%	-
Female-to-male ratio of time spent on unpaid care and domestic work	Ratio	10
Number of hours spent by men on unpaid care and domestic work in a 24-hour period	Hours	0.3
Number of hours spent by women on unpaid care and domestic work in a 24-hour period	Hours	3
Laws on divorce	Score	25
Laws on inheritance	Score	0
Restricted physical integrity	Unit	Value
Laws on violence against women	Score	50
Share of women who consider a husband to be justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances	%	46
Lifetime intimate-partner violence rate ²	%	19
12-month intimate-partner violence rate ²	%	8.2
Laws on female genital mutilation	%	25
Share of the female population who has heard about female genital mutilation and think the practice should continue	%	-
Prevalence of female genital mutilation (% of women aged 15-49 years who have undergone FGM)	%	-
Boy-to-girl ratio at birth (natural = 105) ³	Ratio	105
Laws on reproductive autonomy	Score	0
Unmet needs for family planning ⁴	%	10.6
Restricted access to productive and financial resources	Unit	Value
Laws on land assets	Score	25
Share of women among landowners	%	52.6
Laws on non-land assets	Score	25
Share of women among house owners	%	55.7
Laws on financial assets	Score	0
Share of women among bank account owners	%	49.1
Laws on workplace rights	Score	75
Share of the population declaring that “when jobs are scarce, men should have more right to a job than women”	%	-
Share of the population declaring that “men make better business executives than women do”	%	-
Share of women among managers	%	31
Share of firms with a woman as top manager	%	57.3
Restricted civil liberties	Unit	Value
Laws on citizenship rights	Score	0
Laws on political voice	Score	25
Share of the population declaring that “men make better political leaders than women do”	%	-
Share of women in Parliament (lower chamber)	%	20.8
Laws on freedom of movement	Score	0
Share of women among those who declare not feeling safe walking alone at night in the city or area where they live	%	57.3
Laws on access to justice	Score	25
Share of women among those who declare not having confidence in the judicial system and courts of their country	%	41.5

Note: Scores of legal variables range from 0 to 100, with 0 indicating no discrimination and 100 indicating absolute discrimination.

¹ % of girls/boys aged 15-19 years who have been or are still married, divorced, widowed or in an informal union.

² % of ever-partnered women and girls who have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by a current or former intimate partner during their lifetime/over the previous 12 months. Population base for lifetime IPV: 15-49 years. Population base for 12-month IPV: 15 years and older.

³ A natural boy-to-girl sex ratio at birth is generally estimated to be below 105. A ratio exceeding 105 implies the existence of more boys aged 0-4 than one would expect, indicating a potential phenomenon of son preference resulting in the systemic elimination of new-born girls.

⁴ % of married or in-union women of reproductive age who want to either stop or delay childbearing but are not using any contraception method.

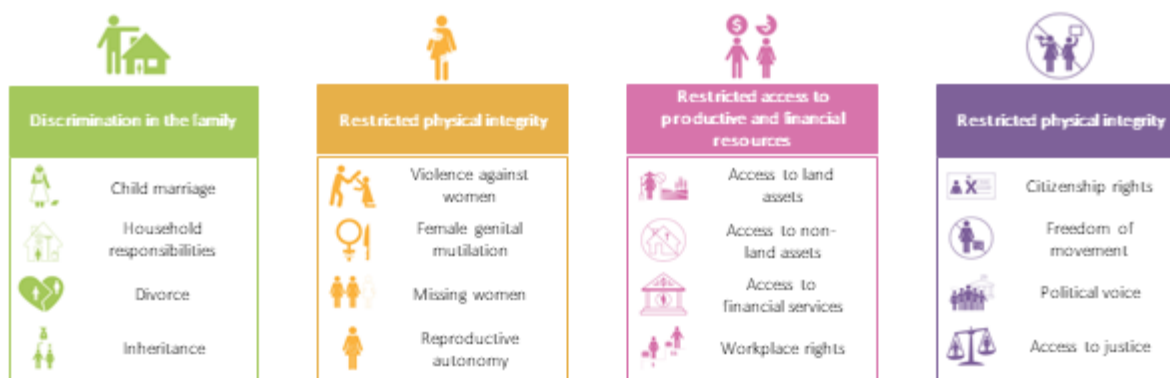
Source: OECD Development Centre/OECD (2023), “Gender, Institutions and Development Database”, <https://doi.org/10.1787/7b0af638-en>.

Results across the SIGI's four dimensions

The SIGI measures gender-based discrimination across four dimensions covering the major socio-economic areas that affect women and girls throughout their lifetime:



- The **“Discrimination in the family”** dimension captures social institutions that limit women’s decision-making power and weaken their status in the household and the family.
- The **“Restricted physical integrity”** dimension captures social institutions that increase women’s and girls’ vulnerability to multiple forms of violence and limit their control over their reproductive autonomy.
- The **“Restricted access to productive and financial resources”** dimension captures social institutions that limit women’s economic opportunities and rights.
- The **“Restricted civil liberties”** dimension captures social institutions restricting women’s access to, and participation and voice in, the public and political spheres.

Figure 2. Conceptual framework of the fifth edition of the SIGI



Each dimension builds on four indicators which, in turn, build on one to three variables depending on data availability (Figure 2). This section features the results by dimension, examining the pertinent social norms, practices and legal frameworks for each indicator.

The legal information collected through the *SIGI 2023 Legal Survey* covers both formal and codified laws, as well as informal laws. The information is assessed based on whether the law protects women’s rights or not, and is icon-coded as follows:

-  : The legal framework protects women’s rights.
-  : The legal framework does not fully protect women’s rights.

There is no universal agreement on what informal laws refer to, given contextual differences across time and place, as well as distinct disciplinary or theoretical approaches. In the context of the SIGI, informal laws (customary, traditional or religious laws/rules) describe mechanisms that operate outside the formal legal system of state-based laws. Informal laws vary from one community to another and are generally uncodified and unwritten. In some cases, informal laws may reflect unequal power dynamics within a given community and discriminatory social norms, with adverse consequences on women and girls and other vulnerable groups. Informal laws are unsteady and have been adapted over time in response to external factors.

For example, customary laws are laws that are embodied in customs, rules or traditions and accepted by members of the community as binding but remain adaptable, dynamic and flexible.⁷ The CEDAW General Recommendation No. 33 also recognises indigenous laws.⁸ These are similar to customary laws but are often given a distinct identity in recognition of the specific international standards related to the rights and protections of indigenous peoples and their justice systems. Informal religious laws may refer to norms that are derived from interpretations of codified religious texts and/or longstanding traditions.

⁷ United Nations (2018), "Module 1: The Theory and Practice of Women's Access to Justice Programming", *A Practitioner's Toolkit on Women's Access to Justice Programming*, UN Women, UNDP, UNDOC and OHCHR, New York, Vienna and Geneva, https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Publications/PractitionerToolkit/WA2J_Module1.pdf.

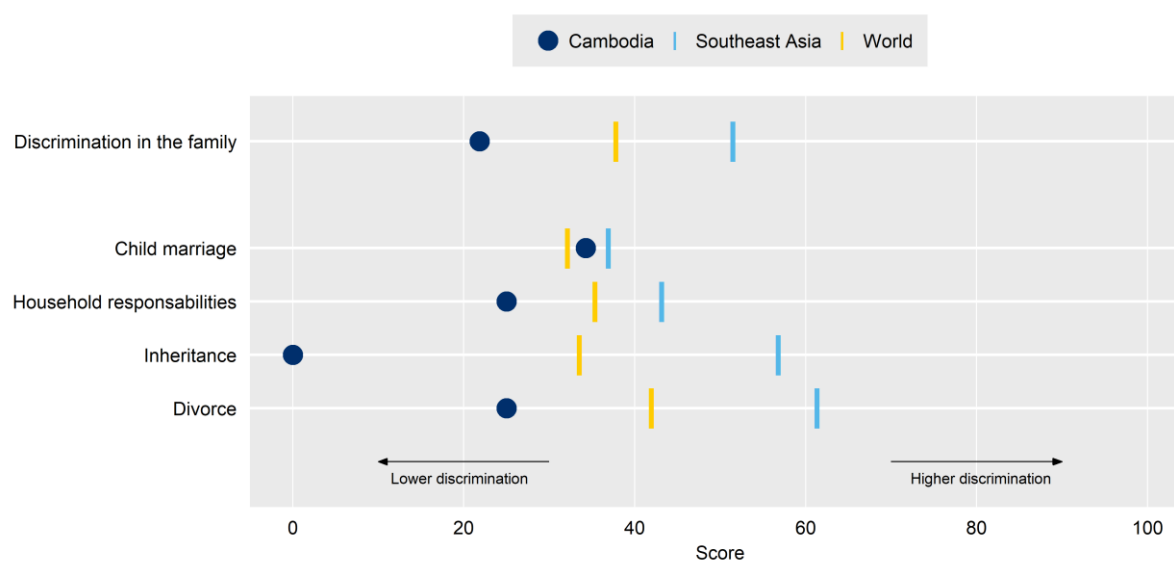
⁸ UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (2015), "General recommendation No. 33 on women's access to justice", *CEDAW/C/GC/33*, United Nations, New York, <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/807253>.

Discrimination in the family

Cambodia exhibits low levels of discrimination within the family with a score of 22, compared to a world average of 38 and an average score of 52 in Southeast Asia – based on countries for which scores could be calculated.

In this dimension, women and girls in Cambodia experience the highest levels of discrimination in the “Child marriage” indicator, with a score of 34, followed by the “Household responsibilities” and “Divorce” indicators, with scores of 25. No discrimination is found in the “Inheritance” indicator, with a score of 0.

Figure 3. Discrimination in the family scores for Cambodia, 2023



Note: Scores range from 0 to 100, with 0 indicating no discrimination and 100 indicating absolute discrimination. The Southeast Asia region covers Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam.

Source: OECD (2023), “Social Institutions and Gender Index (Edition 2023)”, *OECD International Development Statistics (database)*, <https://doi.org/10.1787/33beb96e-en>.

Child marriage

Practices related to child marriage

Child marriage remains a concern in Cambodia, primarily affecting girls. In 2023, 16% of girls aged 15-19 were or are still married, divorced, widowed or in an informal union, compared to 3% of boys. In addition, 19% of women aged 20-24 were married or in a union before the age of 18,⁹ compared to a world average of 26% and an average of 17% in Southeast Asia – based on countries for which data are available.

Legal frameworks concerning child marriage

Article 948 of the Civil Code,¹⁰ as amended, establishes the minimum legal age of marriage at 18 years for both women and men. However, Articles 948 and 953 introduce legal exceptions to this minimum legal

⁹ This indicator corresponds to SDG indicator 5.3.1

¹⁰ Kingdom of Cambodia (2007), “The Civil Code of Kingdom of Cambodia”, *Royal Kram No. NS/RKM/1207/030*.

age of marriage and authorise the marriage of a minor aged more than 16 years with the consent of a parent, guardian or the court. In general, arranged and early marriages remain an issue in Cambodia as it is often rooted in cultural practices.^{11 12}

Question	Answer	Assessment
What is the legal age of marriage for men?	18	✓
What is the legal age of marriage for women?	18	✓
Are there legal exceptions to the legal age of marriage that allow women and men under the legal age of marriage to marry with the consent of parent and/or legal guardian?	Yes	!
Are there legal exceptions to the legal age of marriage that allow women and men under the legal age of marriage to marry with the consent of judge or court?	Yes	!
Are there legal exceptions to the legal age of marriage that allow women and men under the legal age of marriage to marry with the consent of another person or institution?	No	✓
Does the legal age of marriage apply to all groups of women?	Yes	✓
Are there informal laws (customary, traditional or religious laws/rules) that allow or encourage the early marriage of girls?	Yes	!

Note: Cut-off date for the legal data is 31 August 2022.

Source: OECD Development Centre/OECD (2023), *SIGI 2023 Legal Survey*, <https://oe.cd/sigi-dashboard>.

Household responsibilities

Practices and social norms related to household responsibilities

In Cambodia, domestic responsibilities disproportionately fall on women's shoulders. On average, women dedicate 3 hours per day to unpaid care and domestic tasks – such as caring for household members, preparing food and cleaning – compared to 0.3 hours for men. This translates into women dedicating 10 times more time on unpaid care and domestic work than men.¹³ In comparison, the world average ratio is 2.6 and the average ratio for Southeast Asia is 3.1 – based on countries for which data are available.

There are no available data in Cambodia that are comparable to other countries on attitudes related to the division of household responsibilities. In 2023, 56% of the world's population and 35% of the population of Southeast Asia believes that when women work, the children will suffer – based on countries for which data are available.

Legal frameworks concerning household responsibilities

Question	Answer	Assessment
Does the law provide women with the same rights as men to be "head of household" or "head of family"?	Yes	✓
Does the law provide women with the same rights as men to be the legal guardians of their children during marriage?	Yes	✓
Does the law provide women with the same rights as men to be legal guardians of their children in informal unions?	Yes	✓
Regarding women's legal rights to be recognised as head of household or head of family, does the law apply to all groups of women?	Yes	✓
Are there informal laws (customary, traditional or religious laws/rules) that create different rights or abilities between men and women when it comes to being recognised as the head of household?	Yes	!
Are there informal laws (customary, traditional or religious laws/rules) that create different rights or abilities between men and women when it comes to being the legal guardians of their children?	No	✓
Are there informal laws (customary, traditional or religious laws/rules) that create different rights or abilities between men and women when it comes to the choice of where to live?	No	✓

¹¹ NGO-CEDAW and CAMBOW (2013), *The Cambodian NGO Committee on CEDAW (NGO-CEDAW) Shadow Report*, Cambodian NGO committee on CEDAW (NGO-CEDAW) and Cambodian Committee for Women (CAMBOW), Phnom Penh, <https://ngocedaw.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/Shadow-Report-2013-English.pdf> (accessed on 15 September 2023).

¹² Plan International (n.d.), *Breaking the Link: Girls Disrupting the Cycle of Child Marriage and Poverty in Cambodia*, Plan International, <https://plan-international.org/asia-pacific/case-studies/breaking-the-link> (accessed on 15 September 2023).

¹³ This indicator corresponds to SDG indicator 5.4.1

Note: Cut-off date for the legal data is 31 August 2022.

Source: OECD Development Centre/OECD (2023), *SIGI 2023 Legal Survey*, <https://oe.cd/sigi-dashboard>.

Divorce

Legal frameworks concerning divorce

Question	Answer	Assessment
Do women and men have the same rights to initiate/file for a divorce?	Yes	✓
Can women and men finalise a divorce or annulment with the same requirements?	Yes	✓
Do women and men have the same rights to child custody following a divorce?	Yes	✓
Regarding divorce, does the law apply to all groups of women?	Yes	✓
Are there informal laws (customary, traditional or religious laws/rules) that create different rights or abilities between men and women when it comes to initiating divorce?	Yes	!
Are there informal laws (customary, traditional or religious laws/rules) that create different rights or abilities between men and women when it comes to being the legal guardians of their children after divorce?	Yes	!

Note: Cut-off date for the legal data is 31 August 2022.

Source: OECD Development Centre/OECD (2023), *SIGI 2023 Legal Survey*, <https://oe.cd/sigi-dashboard>.

Inheritance

Legal frameworks concerning inheritance rights

Question	Answer	Assessment
Do daughters and sons have the same rights to inherit?	Yes	✓
Do female and male surviving spouses have the same rights to inherit?	Yes	✓
Regarding inheritance rights of daughters, does the law apply to all groups of women?	Yes	✓
Regarding inheritance rights of female surviving spouses, does the law apply to all groups of women?	Yes	✓
Are there informal laws (customary, traditional or religious laws/rules) that create different rights or abilities between sons and daughters when it comes to inheritance?	No	✓
Are there informal laws (customary, traditional or religious laws/rules) that create different rights or abilities between male and female surviving spouses when it comes to inheritance?	No	✓

Note: Cut-off date for the legal data is 31 August 2022.

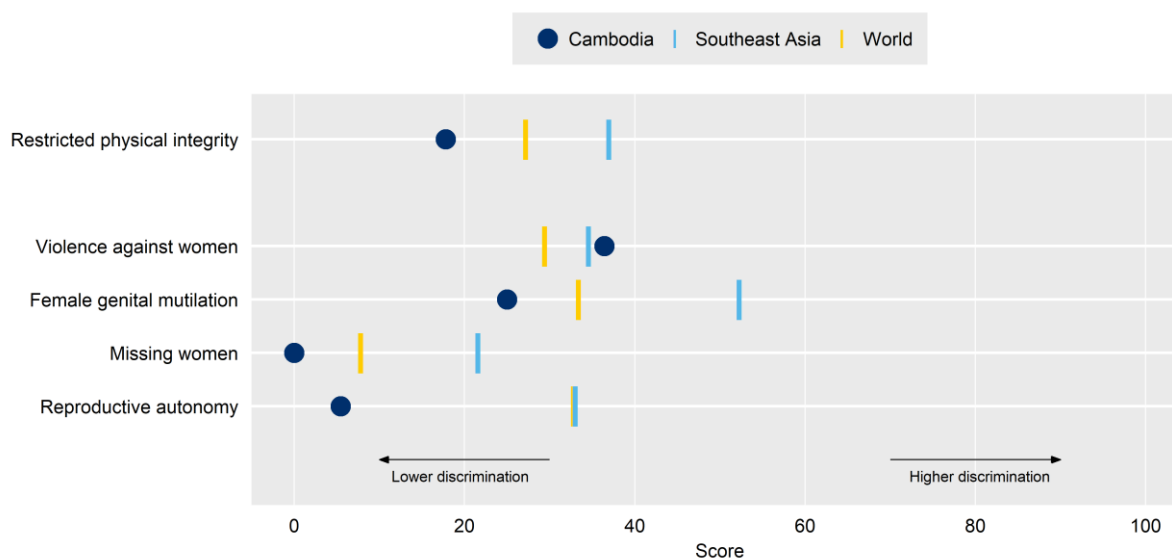
Source: OECD Development Centre/OECD (2023), *SIGI 2023 Legal Survey*, <https://oe.cd/sigi-dashboard>.

Restricted physical integrity

Cambodia exhibits very low levels of discrimination within the family with a score of 18, compared to a world average of 27 and an average score of 37 in Southeast Asia – based on countries for which scores could be calculated.

In this dimension, women and girls in Cambodia experience the highest levels of discrimination in the “Violence against women” indicator, with a score of 36, followed by the “Female genital mutilation” and “Reproductive autonomy” indicators with scores of 25 and 5, respectively. No discrimination is found in the “Missing women” indicator, with a score of 0.

Figure 4. Restricted physical integrity scores for Cambodia, 2023



Note: Scores range from 0 to 100, with 0 indicating no discrimination and 100 indicating absolute discrimination. The Southeast Asia region covers Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam.

Source: OECD (2023), “Social Institutions and Gender Index (Edition 2023)”, *OECD International Development Statistics* (database), <https://doi.org/10.1787/33beb96e-en>.

Violence against women

Practices and social norms related to violence against women

Violence against women remains a concern in Cambodia. In 2023, 19% of women aged 15-49 have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by a current or former partner at least once during their lifetime, and 8% of women aged more than 15 have experienced such violence at least once over the last 12 months.¹⁴

These levels of intimate-partner violence are rooted in its widespread social acceptance. In 2023, 46% of women aged 15-49 think that it is justified for a husband to hit or beat his wife under certain circumstances, such as burning the food, arguing with the spouse, going out without telling him, neglecting the children,

¹⁴ This indicator corresponds to SDG indicator 5.2.1

or refusing to have sex. In comparison, 30% of women holds these discriminatory attitudes worldwide, and 33% in Southeast Asia – based on countries for which data are available.

Legal frameworks concerning violence against women

Cambodia does not have a dedicated law addressing all forms of violence against women. Different forms of violence against women (such as domestic violence or sexual violence) are covered in separate or general pieces of legislation. Although Article 239 of the Criminal Code¹⁵ criminalises rape, the definition of rape is not based on the notion of consent and does not specifically cover marital rape. Article 250 of the Criminal Code also defines and criminalises sexual harassment, but does not specifically mention in which places or contexts. Article 172 of the Labour Law¹⁶ specifically prohibits sexual harassment in the workplace.

Question	Answer	Assessment
Is there a law specifically addressing violence against women?	No	!
If there is a specific law addressing violence against women, are there specific provisions for investigation, prosecution and punishment of the perpetrator?	n.a.	n.a.
If there is a specific law addressing violence against women, are there specific provisions for protection and support services for victims/survivors?	n.a.	n.a.
Does the law include reduced penalties in case of so-called “honour crimes”?	No	✓
Domestic violence		
Is domestic violence a criminal offence?	Yes	✓
Does domestic violence legislation cover physical abuse?	Yes	✓
Does domestic violence legislation cover sexual abuse?	Yes	✓
Does domestic violence legislation cover psychological abuse?	Yes	✓
Does domestic violence legislation cover economic abuse?	Yes	✓
Are there any exceptions included in informal laws (traditional, religious, and/or customary rules/laws) that reduce penalties for domestic violence?	Yes	!
Rape		
Is rape a criminal offence?	Yes	✓
Is the legal definition of rape based on lack of consent?	No	!
If the legal definition of rape is based on lack of consent, does this require proof of physical force?	n.a.	n.a.
If the legal definition of rape is based on lack of consent, does this require proof of penetration?	n.a.	n.a.
Does the legal definition of rape include marital rape?	No	!
Does the law permit the reduction or removal of legal punishment if the perpetrator marries the victim?	No	✓
Sexual harassment		
Does the law prohibit sexual harassment?	Yes	✓
Does the law on sexual harassment include criminal penalties?	Yes	✓
Do legal protections from sexual harassment apply in the workplace?	Yes	✓
Do legal protections from sexual harassment apply in educational establishments?	No	!
Do legal protections from sexual harassment apply in public spaces?	No	!
Do legal protections from sexual harassment apply online / on the internet?	No	!

Note: Cut-off date for the legal data is 31 August 2022.

Source: OECD Development Centre/OECD (2023), *SIGI 2023 Legal Survey*, <https://oe.cd/sigi-dashboard>.

Female genital mutilation

Practices and social norms related to female genital mutilation and cutting (FGM/C)

¹⁵ Kingdom of Cambodia (2009), “Criminal Code of Cambodia”, *Royal Kram No. NS/RKM/1109/022*.

¹⁶ Kingdom of Cambodia (1997), “Labour Law”, *Royal Kram No. CS/RKM/0397/01*.

Female genital mutilation and cutting (FGM/C) is traditionally concentrated in a limited number of countries that have been well-identified and documented by international organisations at the forefront of the fight against this harmful practice. Yet, evidence highlights that FGM/C takes place across all regions, among indigenous and/or diaspora communities originating from countries where FGM/C is known to be common. In some contexts, girls are taken across national borders to undergo FGM/C in a country where the legislation against the practice is either non-existent or less strict.¹⁷

There are no available data in Cambodia that are comparable to other countries on practices and social norms related to female genital mutilation and cutting.

Legal frameworks concerning female genital mutilation and cutting (FGM/C)

Article 188(11) of the Criminal Code¹⁸ specifies that acts intentionally causing great suffering or serious injury to body are considered crimes against humanity. Article 210 of the Criminal Code allows to prosecute FGM/C acts on broad grounds under acts of torture and acts of cruelty and Article 223 criminalises those acts that result in the mutilation or permanent disability of the victim. However, the law does not criminalise FGM/C on narrow grounds.

Question	Answer	Assessment
Does the law criminalise FGM/C on broad or narrow grounds?	Yes	
Does the law criminalise FGM/C on narrow grounds only?	No	
Are there informal laws (customary, traditional or religious laws) that allow or encourage FGM/C?	No	
Does the law take precedence over informal laws (customary, traditional or religious laws) that allow, condone or prescribe FGM?	n.a.	n.a.

Note: The SIGI methodology assesses laws on FGM/C according to two scenarios: (1) criminalisation on narrow grounds includes laws that contain criminal penalties for acts of “female genital mutilation”, “permanent altering/removal of external genitalia”, “female circumcision”, “excision”, “infibulation” and “genital mutilation”; (2) criminalisation on broad grounds includes “mutilation”, “harming of a person’s organs”, “serious bodily injury” and “bodily injury/hurt/assault.” The presence of informal laws that allow or encourage FGM/C is proxied by the existence of nationally representative data on FGM/C or the existence of indirect estimates (usually used in countries where FGM/C is mainly practiced by diaspora communities), small-scale studies, or anecdotal evidence and media reports as reported by Equality Now, the End FGM European Network and the US End FGM/C Network in 2020.

Source: OECD Development Centre/OECD (2023), *SIGI 2023 Legal Survey*, <https://oe.cd/sigi-dashboard>, and Equality Now, End FGM European Network and US End FGM/C Network (2020), *Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting: A Call For A Global Response*, <https://www.equalitynow.org/resource/female-genital-mutilation-cutting-a-call-for-a-global-response/>.

Missing women

Practices related to missing women

The “Missing women” indicator captures whether there are any existing imbalances in the natural sex ratio between girls and boys aged 0-4 due to pre- and postnatal gender-biased sex selection. These imbalances can result from sex-selective abortions, female infanticide, and/or inadequate healthcare and nutrition for girls. A natural boy-to-girl sex ratio at birth is generally estimated to be below 105. A ratio exceeding 105 implies the existence of more boys aged 0-4 than one would expect, indicating a potential phenomenon of son preference resulting in the systemic elimination of new-born girls.

In Cambodia, the “missing women” phenomenon is not an issue. The boy-to-girl sex ratio for children aged 0-4 is estimated at 105, which means that there are approximately 105 boys aged 0-4 for 100 girls of the same age, which is in line with a natural sex ratio at birth.

¹⁷ Equality Now, End FGM European Network and US End FGM/C Network (2020), *Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting: A Call For A Global Response*, <https://www.equalitynow.org/resource/female-genital-mutilation-cutting-a-call-for-a-global-response/>.

¹⁸ Kingdom of Cambodia (2009), “Criminal Code of Cambodia”, *Royal Kram No. NS/RKM/1109/022*.

Reproductive autonomy

Practices related to women's reproductive autonomy

Unmet needs for family planning are calculated as the proportion of women of reproductive age (15-49 years), married or in union, who wish to interrupt or delay childbearing but do not use any method of contraception.

In Cambodia, the gap between women's reproductive intentions and their contraceptive behaviour exists, with 11% of women aged 15-49 who declare having an unmet need for family planning, compared to a world average of 12% and an average of 11% in Southeast Asia – based on countries for which data are available.

Legal frameworks concerning women's reproductive autonomy

Women's reproductive autonomy can be restricted by laws that prohibit the access to safe and legal abortion under essential circumstances (in cases of rape, incest, threats to the life or health of the pregnant woman and severe foetal impairment).¹⁹ Evidence shows that the share of unsafe abortions is higher in countries with restrictive abortion laws. Unsafe abortions are a leading but preventable cause of maternal mortality and millions of girls and women are hospitalised every year following complications of unsafe abortion procedures.²⁰

Question	Answer	Assessment
Is abortion illegal under any circumstances?	No	✓
Is abortion legally permitted in cases where: it is essential to save the woman's life?	Yes	✓
Is abortion legally permitted in cases where: it is essential to preserve the physical health of the woman?	Yes	✓
Is abortion legally permitted in cases where: it is essential to preserve the mental health of the woman?	Yes	✓
Is abortion legally permitted in cases where: pregnancy is the result of rape or statutory rape?	Yes	✓
Is abortion legally permitted in cases where: pregnancy is the result of incest?	Yes	✓
Is abortion legally permitted in cases where: social and economic reasons do not allow the mother to sustain a pregnancy?	Yes	✓
Is abortion legally permitted in cases where: foetal impairment?	Yes	✓
Does a woman require the approval of a medical practitioner to seek a legal abortion?	Yes	!
Does the law require the approval of the father of the foetus to seek a legal abortion?	No	✓
Is there any national plan or policy that provide universal access to family planning services?	Yes	✓
Is there any law or national policy that provide free or subsidised access to contraception?	No	!
Does the national school curricula include mandatory and comprehensive sexuality education?	Yes	✓

Note: Cut-off date for the legal data is 31 August 2022.

Source: OECD Development Centre/OECD (2023), *SIGI 2023 Legal Survey*, <https://oe.cd/sigi-dashboard>.

¹⁹ CEDAW (2022), *Access to safe and legal abortion: Urgent call for United States to adhere to women's rights convention*, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/statements/2022/07/access-safe-and-legal-abortion-urgent-call-united-states-adhere-womens-rights>.

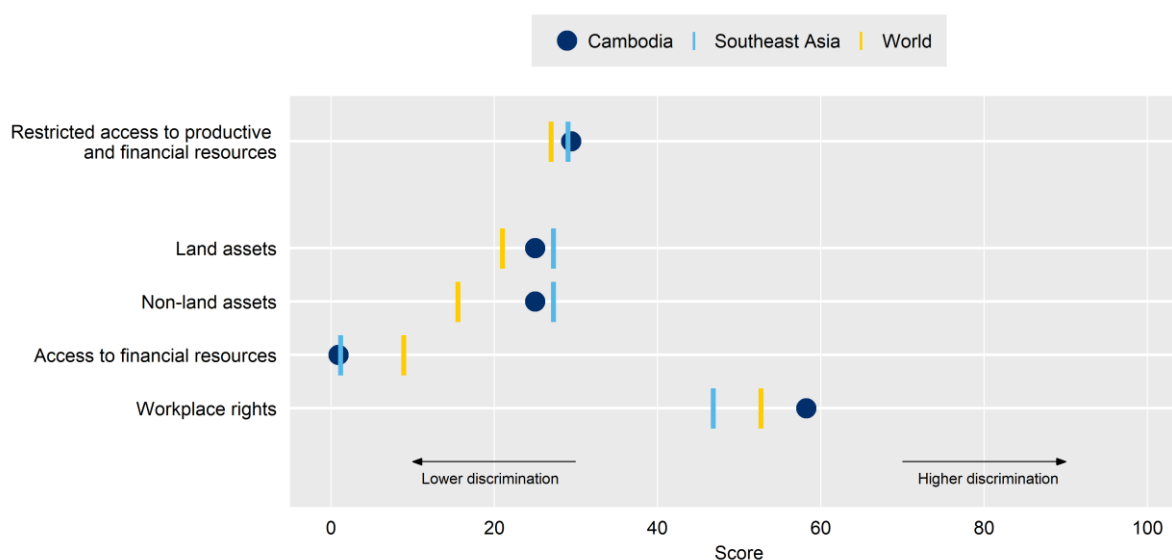
²⁰ UNFPA (2022), *State of World Population 2022: Seeing the Unseen - The Case for Action in the Neglected Crisis of Unintended Pregnancy*, UNFPA, Geneva, <https://doi.org/10.18356/9789210015004>.

Restricted access to productive and financial resources

Cambodia exhibits low levels of discrimination within the family with a score of 29, compared to a world average of 27 and an average score of 29 in Southeast Asia – based on countries for which scores could be calculated.

In this dimension, women and girls in Cambodia experience the highest levels of discrimination in the “Workplace rights” indicator, with a score of 58, followed by the “Access to land” and “Access to non-land assets” indicators, with scores of 25 for both. The lowest levels of discrimination are found in the “Access to financial services” indicator, with a score of 1.

Figure 5. Restricted access to productive and financial resources scores for Cambodia, 2023



Note: Scores range from 0 to 100, with 0 indicating no discrimination and 100 indicating absolute discrimination. The Southeast Asia region covers Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam.

Source: OECD (2023), “Social Institutions and Gender Index (Edition 2023)”, *OECD International Development Statistics* (database), <https://doi.org/10.1787/33beb96e-en>.

Access to land assets

Practices related to women’s access to secure land assets

In Cambodia, women’s land ownership is not a concern. In 2023, 54% of women are landowners, compared to 51% of men. This translates into women accounting for 53% of landowners in the country.

Legal frameworks concerning women’s access to land assets

Question	Answer	Assessment
Does the law provide married women with the same rights as married men to own land?	Yes	✓
Does the law provide married women with the same rights as married men to use land?	Yes	✓
Does the law provide unmarried women with the same rights as unmarried men to own land?	Yes	✓
Does the law provide unmarried women with the same rights as unmarried men to use land?	Yes	✓
Regarding land, does the law apply to all groups of women?	Yes	✓

Question	Answer	Assessment
Are there informal laws (customary, religious or traditional laws/rules) that create different rights or abilities between men and women when it comes to the ownership or use of land assets?	Yes	!

Note: Cut-off date for the legal data is 31 August 2022.

Source: OECD Development Centre/OECD (2023), *SIGI 2023 Legal Survey*, <https://oe.cd/sigi-dashboard>.

Access to non-land assets

Practices related to women's secure access to non-land assets

In Cambodia, women's access to non-land assets does not seem to be an issue. In 2023, 62% of women own a house, compared to 51% of men. This translates into women accounting for 56% of house owners in the country.

Legal frameworks concerning women's access to non-land assets

Question	Answer	Assessment
Does the law provide married women with the same rights as married men to own property and other non-land assets?	Yes	✓
Does the law provide married women with the same rights as married men to use property and other non-land assets?	Yes	✓
Does the law provide unmarried women with the same rights as unmarried men to own property and other non-land assets?	Yes	✓
Does the law provide unmarried women with the same rights as unmarried men to use property and other non-land assets?	Yes	✓
Regarding property and other non-land assets, does the law apply to all groups of women?	Yes	✓
Are there informal laws (customary, religious or traditional laws/rules) that create different rights or abilities between men and women when it comes to the ownership or use of non-land assets?	Yes	!

Note: Cut-off date for the legal data is 31 August 2022.

Source: OECD Development Centre/OECD (2023), *SIGI 2023 Legal Survey*, <https://oe.cd/sigi-dashboard>.

Access to financial services

Practices related to women's access to formal financial services

Gender imbalances in terms of access to financial services are limited in Cambodia, but the overall access of the population is relatively low. In 2023, 31% of women have a bank account at a financial institution, compared to 34% of men. This translates into women accounting for 49% of bank account holders. In comparison, at the global level, 67% of women have a bank account, compared to 72% of men. Across Southeast Asia, on average, 52% of women have a bank account, compared to 54% of men.

Legal frameworks concerning women's access to financial services

Question	Answer	Assessment
Does the law provide women with the same rights as men to open a bank account at a formal financial institution?	Yes	✓
Does the law require married women to obtain the signature and authority of their husband to open a bank account at a formal financial institution?	No	✓
Does the law provide women with the same rights as men to obtain credit?	Yes	✓
Regarding access to formal financial services, does the law apply to all groups of women (regardless of race, ethnicity caste, etc.)?	Yes	✓
Are there informal laws (customary, religious, or traditional laws/rules) that create different rights or abilities between men and women when it comes to opening a bank account?	No	✓
Are there informal laws (customary, religious, or traditional laws/rules) that create different rights or abilities between men and women when it comes to obtaining credit?	No	✓

Note: Cut-off date for the legal data is 31 August 2022.

Source: OECD Development Centre/OECD (2023), *SIGI 2023 Legal Survey*, <https://oe.cd/sigi-dashboard>.

Workplace rights

Practices and social norms related to women's workplace rights

Women remain partially excluded from positions with decision-making power in the economic sphere. Women account for 31% of employees in a managerial position,²¹ compared to a world average of 25% and an average of 36% in Southeast Asia – based on countries for which data are available. At the same time, 57% of companies in the country are headed by women.

There are no available data in Cambodia that are comparable to other countries on attitudes related to women's ability to be business executives or to men's priority to have a job compared to women. In 2023, 45% of the world's population agrees that when jobs are scarce, men should have more right to a job than women. In Southeast Asia this percentage reaches 64% – based on countries for which data are available.

Legal frameworks concerning women's workplace rights

Question	Answer	Assessment
Does the law prohibit discrimination in employment on the basis of sex?	Yes	✓
Does the law mandate equal remuneration for work of equal value?	Yes	✓
Does the law prohibit women from entering certain professions?	No	✓
Does the law allow women to work the same night hours as men?	Yes	✓
Does the law mandate paid maternity leave?	Yes	✓
Does the law mandate paid paternity leave?	No	!
Does the law mandate paid parental leave?	No	!
Does the law require women to have permission from their husband or legal guardian to take a paid job?	No	✓
Does the law require women to have permission from their husband or legal guardian to register a business?	No	✓
Regarding women's legal right to take a paid job or work and/or register a business, does the law apply to all groups of women (regardless of race, ethnicity caste, etc.)?	Yes	✓
Are there informal laws (customary, religious, or traditional laws/rules) that create different rights or abilities between men and women when it comes to entering certain professions?	Yes	!
Are there informal laws (customary, religious, or traditional laws/rules) that require women to have the permission from their husband or legal guardian to take a paid job?	No	✓
Are there informal laws (customary, religious, or traditional laws/rules) that require women to have the permission from their husband or legal guardian to register a business?	Yes	!

Note: Cut-off date for the legal data is 31 August 2022.

Source: OECD Development Centre/OECD (2023), *SIGI 2023 Legal Survey*, <https://oe.cd/sigi-dashboard>.

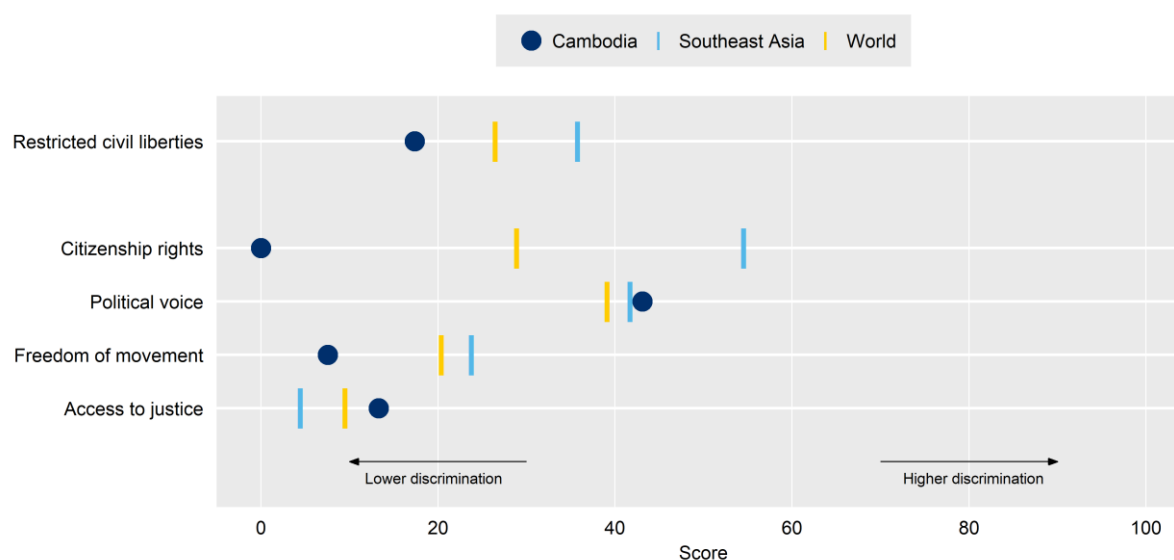
²¹ This indicator corresponds to SDG indicator 5.2.2

Restricted civil liberties

Cambodia exhibits very low levels of discrimination within the family with a score of 17, compared to a world average of 26 and an average score of 36 in Southeast Asia – based on countries for which scores could be calculated.

In this dimension, women and girls in Cambodia experience the highest levels of discrimination in the “Political voice” indicator, with a score of 43, followed by the “Access to justice” and “Freedom of movement” indicators with scores of 13 and 8, respectively. No discrimination is found in the “Citizenships rights” indicator, with a score of 0.

Figure 6. Restricted civil liberties scores for Cambodia, 2023



Note: Scores range from 0 to 100, with 0 indicating no discrimination and 100 indicating absolute discrimination. The Southeast Asia region covers Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam.

Source: OECD (2023), “Social Institutions and Gender Index (Edition 2023)”, *OECD International Development Statistics* (database), <https://doi.org/10.1787/33beb96e-en>.

Citizenship rights

Legal frameworks concerning women’s citizenship rights

Question	Answer	Assessment
Does the law provide married women with the same rights as married men to acquire nationality?	Yes	✓
Does the law provide unmarried women with the same rights as unmarried men to acquire nationality?	Yes	✓
Does the law provide married women with the same rights as married men to change their nationality?	Yes	✓
Does the law provide unmarried women with the same rights as unmarried men to change their nationality?	Yes	✓
Does the law provide married women with the same rights as married men to retain their nationality?	Yes	✓
Does the law provide unmarried women with the same rights as unmarried men to retain their nationality?	Yes	✓
Does the law provide married women with the same rights as married men to confer nationality to their spouse?	Yes	✓
Does the law provide married women with the same rights as married men to confer nationality to their children?	Yes	✓
Does the law provide unmarried women with the same rights as unmarried men to confer nationality to their children?	Yes	✓
Regarding women’s nationality rights, does the law apply to all groups of women (regardless of race, caste, ethnicity, etc.)?	Yes	✓

Question	Answer	Assessment
Are there informal laws (customary, traditional, or religious laws) that create different rights or abilities between men and women when it comes to acquiring, changing, or retaining their nationality?	No	✓
Are there informal laws (customary, traditional, or religious laws) that create different rights or abilities between men and women when it comes to conferring nationality to their spouse and/or children?	No	✓

Note: Cut-off date for the legal data is 31 August 2022.

Source: OECD Development Centre/OECD (2023), *SIGI 2023 Legal Survey*, <https://oe.cd/sigi-dashboard>.

Freedom of movement

Practices related to women's freedom of movement

Freedom of movement is recognised as a human right and mobility is essential in everyday life, for instance to reach the workplace or healthcare facilities. In Cambodia, women feel more unsafe than men, and a large part of the overall population feels that way. Across the country, 35% of women declare not feeling safe walking alone at night in the city or in the area where they live, compared to 30% of men. This translates into women accounting for 57% of those who do not feel safe walking alone at night.

Legal frameworks concerning women's freedom of movement

Beyond the challenge of ensuring that everyone feels safe enough to move around in public spaces, laws must guarantee women and men the same rights to obtain identification documents and to travel by themselves within and outside of their country.

Question	Answer	Assessment
Does the government provide national identity cards?	Yes	✓
Can a married woman apply for a national identity card in the same way as a married man? (in terms of rights and procedures)	Yes	✓
Can an unmarried woman apply for a national identity card in the same way as an unmarried man? (in terms of rights and procedures)	Yes	✓
Can a married woman apply for a passport in the same way as a married man (in terms of rights and procedures)?	Yes	✓
Can an unmarried woman apply for a passport in the same way as an unmarried man (in terms of rights and procedures)?	Yes	✓
Regarding identity cards and/or passports, does the law apply to all groups of women (regardless of race, caste, ethnicity, etc.)?	Yes	✓
Does the law provide married women with the same rights as married men to travel outside the country?	Yes	✓
Does the law provide married women with the same rights as married men to travel outside their homes?	Yes	✓
Are there informal laws (customary, religious, or traditional laws/rules) that create different rights or abilities between men and women when it comes to applying for identity cards or passports?	No	✓

Note: Cut-off date for the legal data is 31 August 2022.

Source: OECD Development Centre/OECD (2023), *SIGI 2023 Legal Survey*, <https://oe.cd/sigi-dashboard>.

Political voice

Practices and social norms related to women's political voice

Women's political representation in the country is low, with women accounting for only 21% of the members of parliament in 2023, compared to a world average of 27% and an average of 22% in Southeast Asia.

Regarding attitudes on women's ability to be political leaders, there are no available data in Cambodia that are comparable to other countries. In 2023, 48% of the world's population thinks that men make better political leaders than women. In Southeast Asia, this percentage reaches 62% – based on countries for which data are available.

Legal frameworks concerning women's political voice

Question	Answer	Assessment
Does the law provide women with the same rights as men to vote?	Yes	✓
Does the law provide women with the same rights as men to hold public and political office in the legislative branch?	Yes	✓
Does the law provide women with the same rights as men to hold public and political office in the executive branch?	Yes	✓
Does the law provide women with the same rights as men to hold public office in the judiciary branch?	Yes	✓
Do constitutional/legislated gender quotas exist to promote women's political representation at the national level?	No	!
Do constitutional/legislated gender quotas exist to promote women's political representation at the local level?	Yes	✓
Does the law provide for special measures other than quotas to promote women's political representation at the national level?	No	!
Does the law provide for special measures other than quotas to promote women's political representation at the local level?	No	!
Are there informal laws (customary, religious or traditional laws/rules) that create different rights or abilities between men and women when it comes to voting?	No	✓
Are there informal laws (customary, religious or traditional laws/rules) that create different rights or abilities between men and women when it comes to holding public office?	Yes	!

Note: Cut-off date for the legal data is 31 August 2022.

Source: OECD Development Centre/OECD (2023), *SIGI 2023 Legal Survey*, <https://oe.cd/sigi-dashboard>.

Access to justice

Practices related to women's access to justice

In Cambodia, 27% of women do not trust the judicial system and courts, compared to 44% of men. This translates into women accounting for 42% of those who do not trust the country's judicial system.

Legal frameworks concerning women's access to justice

Question	Answer	Assessment
Does the law provide women with the same rights as men to sue?	Yes	✓
Does a woman's testimony carry the same evidentiary weight as a man's in the civil courts?	Yes	✓
Does a woman's testimony carry the same evidentiary weight as a man's in the criminal courts?	Yes	✓
Does a woman's testimony carry the same evidentiary weight as a man's in the family courts?	Yes	✓
Does a woman's testimony carry the same evidentiary weight as a man's in the tribunals?	Yes	✓
Are there informal laws (customary, religious or traditional laws/rules) that create different rights or abilities between men and women when it comes suing someone?	Yes	!
Are there informal laws (customary, religious or traditional laws/rules) that create different rights or abilities between men and women when it comes to providing testimony in court?	Yes	!
Are there informal laws (customary, religious or traditional laws/rules) that create different rights or abilities between men and women when it comes to being judges, advocates or other court officers?	Yes	!

Note: Cut-off date for the legal data is 31 August 2022.

Source: OECD Development Centre/OECD (2023), *SIGI 2023 Legal Survey*, <https://oe.cd/sigi-dashboard>.