

Literature Review on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights of Migrant Garment Factory Workers in Cambodia



Preface

The global goal of UNFPA is to achieve universal access to sexual and reproductive health, to realize reproductive rights, and to reduce maternal mortality. The work of UNFPA is centred on attaining this goal, particularly through an enhanced focus on family planning, maternal health, and HIV/AIDS. Reaching this goal can bring enormous benefits to people across the world, accelerate progress on the ICPD agenda, and make a major contribution to reaching the targets set by the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). MDGs 5a and 5b on maternal mortality and reproductive health are central to UNFPA's work.

Women, adolescents and youth are the key beneficiaries of UNFPA's efforts. The organization prioritizes the most vulnerable and marginalized, particularly adolescent girls and also indigenous people, ethnic minorities, migrants, sex workers, persons living with HIV, and persons with disabilities. UNFPA endeavors to improve their health and their ability to participate in decision-making processes on issues that affect their lives, whether those decisions are made at the individual, familial, community, or national levels.

In Cambodia, there are a significant number of migrant factory workers, and most of them are female adolescents and youth, living around Phnom Penh. Thus there is a need to support and respond to their health needs, particularly their sexual and reproductive health and rights. However, very little is known at the national level about the health status and needs of this group. There has not been sufficient documentation on the sexual and reproductive health and rights of female garment factory workers. Different programs and projects have been time bound and information on the reproductive health and gender concerns of female migrant factory workers is limited. Therefore, there is a need to gather information and evidence that will be used at the national level. Furthermore, in order to achieve universal access to sexual and reproductive health, promote reproductive rights, and reduce maternal mortality and accelerate progress on the ICPD agenda and MDG 5, special attention is needed for marginalized groups including migrants, particularly urban migrants who are seeking and working at various factories and firms around Phnom Penh, and surrounding provinces.

In view of the paucity of such crucial data, the UNFPA Cambodia Country Office decided to commission this literature review, based primarily on evidence from desk reviews, backed up with interviews with key informants to explore the current sexual and reproductive health and rights of this particular vulnerable group.

With these findings and other sources of available data, UNFPA seeks to draw the attention to the sexual and reproductive health and rights of garment factory workers, their access to reproductive health services, and more importantly the fulfillment of their reproductive rights. We call upon planners, policymakers and the donor community to take proactive measures to ensure that factory workers, who are the main actors and contributors to economic development, are benefiting from the industry as well, rather than becoming the victims of it. I hope the review will therefore help policy makers and providers to strengthen practice, and interventions that would lead to strengthening the progress towards realizing universal access to reproductive health in Cambodia.

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Acronyms

AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
BFC	Better Factories Cambodia
BSS	Behavioural Sentinel Surveillance
CDHS	Cambodian Demographic Health Survey
DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
EW	Entertainment Worker
FDC	Fixed Duration Contract
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GMAC	Garment Manufacturers Association of Cambodia
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IUD	Intra Uterine Device
MoH	Ministry of Health
MoLVT	Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training
MSIC	Marie Stopes International Cambodia
NCHADS	National Centre for HIV/AIDS and Dermatology
NGO	Non-Government Organisation
NMCHC	National Maternal and Child Health Centre
PSL	Partnering to Save Lives
RHAC	Reproductive Health Association of Cambodia
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infection
UDC	Undetermined Contract
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
VCCT	Voluntary Confidential Counselling and Testing

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