

Experiences of Gender-Based Violence

in Urban Poor Rental Housing Communities of Phnom Penh



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February 2019

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The Research Team would like to thank the residents of urban settlements in Phnom Penh for their participation in this research. We are also extremely grateful to the key informants, including police officers, local authority members and community leaders, as well as members of key Cambodian women's rights organisations, who generously gave their time to participate in this research.

This publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union and OHCHR. Its contents are the sole responsibility of People in Need and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union or OHCHR.

1. Introduction

1.1. Context

Efforts in recent years to close the so-called ‘gender rights gap’ in Cambodia have seen various forms of progress, such as women’s improved economic empowerment through increased labour force participation¹ and the introduction of new laws and policies aimed at eliminating gender-based violence (GBV)². Despite these important gains, myriad challenges remain. For instance, while women’s labour force participation has increased, the *quality* of that employment often leaves much to be desired – many migrant women in particular are forced into underpaid, precarious work in order to meet their basic needs.³ Unequal wages between genders persist,⁴ and an ongoing lack of social protections and gender responsive public services have been shown to further limit women’s opportunities and mobility.⁵ Women’s political participation remains low – having actually regressed at the national level since 2017 – and just 14 per cent of judges in Cambodia are women.⁶

Though Cambodian women comprise 51 per cent of the country’s population, their ability to participate as equal partners in social, political and economic life remains severely constrained. Cultural norms unfairly shape the role of women, with their perceived status as primarily homemakers and caregivers remaining strong in Cambodian society. Changes in harmful social norms and attitudes are therefore necessary in order for women’s equality to be fully realised. Gender disparities across specific sectors, for instance in relation to education outcomes or access to resources and capital, must be addressed. Further, any ‘women’s empowerment’ initiatives should work to ensure that women have agency in relation to any decision-making processes affecting their lives.

Gender inequality is a known key driver of GBV. For instance, studies show that the prevalence in a given society of a so-called ‘rape culture’ that normalises harassment and sexism, also normalises and excuses physical violence against women.⁷ Conversely, GBV serves to perpetuate gender inequality, as women are pressured to restrict their own mobility to avoid situations that may place them at risk of such violence. This interrelationship between gender inequality and violence requires that a holistic and multi-sectoral approach is adopted in combating GBV. Such an approach should seek to shift both male and female attitudes around violence, increase women’s agency over their own sexual autonomy and bodily integrity, and reduce impunity for perpetrators.

¹ National Institute of Statistics, Ministry of Planning (2008; 2012) *Cambodia Socio-Economic Survey*. Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

² See for instance the 2017 Media Code of Conduct for Reporting on Violence Against Women or the 2005 Domestic Violence law.

³ United Sisterhood, (2017) *The Reality of the National Economic Backbone*
<https://focusweb.org/system/files/backbone_-_final_-3.2_-_high_quality_press.pdf>

⁴ Mech Dara, “Putting a price on gender parity” *The Phnom Penh Post* (March 9 2018)
<<https://www.phnompenhpost.com/national-post-depth/putting-price-gender-parity-cambodias-women-face-growing-pay-gap-limits>>

⁵ ActionAid International, (2014) *From Reality to Rights*
<<https://actionaid.ie/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Safe-Cities-for-Women-From-Realities-to-Rights-1.pdf>>

⁶ Kijewski, Leonie, “In Cambodia’s courts, it’s a man’s world” *The Phnom Penh Post* (23 February 2018) <<https://www.phnompenhpost.com/national-post-depth/cambodias-courts-its-mans-world-effects-felt-female-employees-and-victims-alike>>

⁷ Equality Now (2017) “*The World’s Shame: The Global Rape Epidemic*” p31
<https://www.equalitynow.org/the_global_rape_epidemic_campaign?locale=en>

It is also crucial that the approach is intersectional, in that all interventions should carefully and deliberately account for the multiple forms of oppression and marginalisation that different groups of women face. In the Cambodian context, those intersecting forms of oppression can stem from discrimination based on women's racial, ethnic, religious, socio-economic or occupational background, their HIV status, substance abuse or mental health issues, disability, illiteracy, or sexual orientation and/or gender identity. Women facing intersecting forms of oppression, also called 'overlapping vulnerabilities' require comprehensive forms of assistance and warrant priority action.⁸

Cambodia's urban poor communities in particular are characterised by low literacy and higher than average poverty rates, but also issues related to increased gender inequality.⁹ A 2016 baseline study by Urban Poor Women Development (UPWD) revealed that a majority of women in the communities that they surveyed are solely responsible for taking care of the household, including preparing meals and caring for children and elderly family members.¹⁰ 18 per cent of women surveyed reported suffering from some form of physical, verbal or psychological abuse at the hands of their partners – a rate almost a third higher than the national average of 12.8 per cent.¹¹ Almost all women surveyed by UPWD (90 per cent) reported having been 'punished' in some way by their husband, for reasons such as failing to cook for the family or going out shopping.

As a consequence, many women reported feeling pressured to perform unpaid care work duties and behave subserviently to their husbands in order to avoid domestic violence. Some also spoke of external pressures that acted as drivers of domestic violence that are specific to urban poor communities, such as rumours or threats of eviction. These threats can lead to severe strains being placed on family structures and relationships, elevating the likelihood of domestic violence. This is supported by a study done by the Cambodian Centre for Human Rights in which a large number of women reported facing increased familial problems as a result of eviction threats and land conflicts.¹²

While domestic violence is almost always recognised as a more common form of violence, many women in urban poor communities also experience GBV (including sexual harassment) in public spaces, often perpetrated by strangers or neighbours.¹³ Many more live with the fear of such violence occurring. The prevalence of such forms of violence leads to a restriction of women's mobility and therefore limits their social and economic opportunities, and reinforces norms about women's 'natural place' being inside the home. This study acknowledges that while both domestic violence and violence perpetrated by non-partners can take place in the same areas and can affect the same women, they manifest in different ways and spaces and are experienced and understood differently.

⁸ Asian Development Bank, (2014) *Cambodia: Country Poverty Analysis*, p 31
<<https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/institutional-document/151706/cambodia-country-poverty-analysis-2014.pdf>>

⁹ The ASIA Foundation, (2015) *Intimate Partner Violence & Educational Attainment*
<<https://asiafoundation.org/resources/pdfs/Brief4EDUCATIONATTAINMENT.pdf>>

¹⁰ Internal baseline survey of UPWD, 2016

¹¹ Cambodia Demographic and Health Survey 2005

¹² (CCHR, Cambodia's Woman in Land Conflict, 2016)

¹³ WHO, Department of Reproductive Health and Research (2013). *Global and regional estimates of violence against women: prevalence and health effects of intimate partner violence and non-partner sexual violence*, p.2.

This research therefore examines the prevalence of and attitudes towards both types of violence as being distinct from one another, with some interesting results - for instance, while a majority of respondents find women are 'somewhat to blame' for violence committed against them by their husbands, the degree to which a woman is considered to blame for violence committed against her by a stranger was markedly lower (though still present). The specific reasons given by respondents for women's culpability in relation to DV included things like 'forgetting to cook,' and 'gambling,' while for GBV committed by strangers, the reasons given were related to perceived promiscuity: 'Prettiness,' 'short skirts,' 'walking at midnight' and 'not being raised properly by their mothers.' In considering these differential findings, this study recognises that 'different forms of GBV are driven by a combination of factors at the individual, relationship, community and societal level and therefore need to be addressed through a variety of interventions.'¹⁴

Lastly, women survivors of GBV living in urban poor communities consistently report facing severe challenges in accessing services. These include but are not limited to lack of shelters, inability to pay informal fees often charged by police and healthcare providers for services, lack of access to legal aid services, tendency for authorities to divert complaints to mediation processes or dismiss reports altogether, and in some cases revictimisation by service providers.¹⁵ Interventions to strengthen capacity of service providers to respond effectively are therefore needed, though these should be streamlined with efforts already underway in this space. These include, for instance, the ongoing joint efforts by MoWA, relevant line ministries and civil society to develop 'one stop service centres' for GBV survivors as outlined in the National Action Plan to End Violence Against Women (NAPVAW II).¹⁶

1.2. Rationale and Research Problems

Through the three year long Human Rights Based Spatial Planning Project II (funded by the European Union (EU) and Czech Development Agency (CzDA)), People in Need (PIN) and UPWD have developed several initiatives to promote women's equal access to rights and development in two target urban poor communities in Phnom Penh. These include the provision of legal land tenure advice, mapping and profiling and community organising. Opportunities have been created for women who live with increased vulnerabilities, by promoting their participation in community committees, designing and implementing small-scale infrastructure upgrades, and developing waste management and sanitation strategies.

However, it is recognised that these and future initiatives would benefit from a more comprehensive understanding of the prevalence of different types of GBV in urban poor communities, and the impact of that violence upon women living within them. Similarly, analysis that is directly informed by primary research examining how GBV affects women's ability to participate in programmatic initiatives is hoped to enhance the efficacy of such programmes and help to ensure they are appropriately gender responsive and intersectional in design and delivery.

¹⁴ MoWA, National Action Plan to End Violence Against Women, (NAPVAW II) p3 (2014)
<<https://cambodia.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/NAPVAW2014-2018%28Eng%29.pdf>>

¹⁵ ActionAid International (2014) *ibid*.

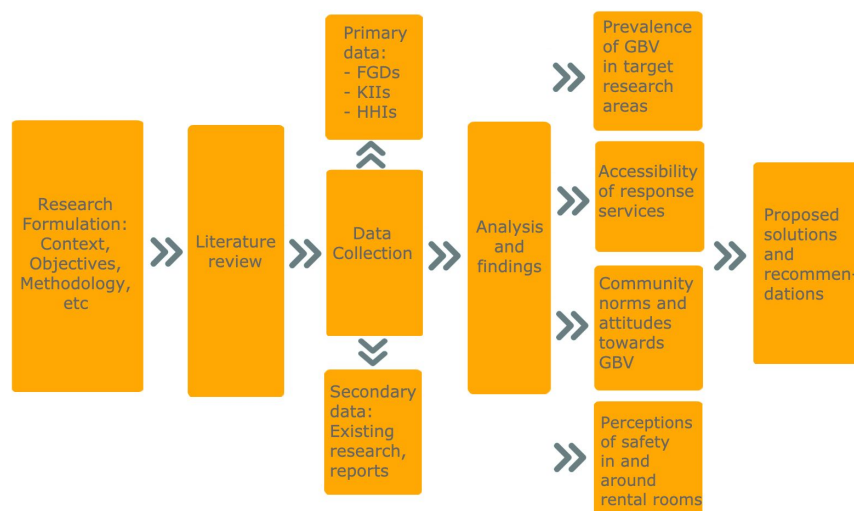
¹⁶ NAPVAW II, *ibid*.

1.3. Research Objectives

Considering the existing available literature and the gaps noted therein, the research will be conducted with the following objectives:

1. To understand the prevalence of different types of gender-based violence in rental accommodation in urban poor communities
2. To examine the perceptions of safety for women¹⁷ in the research areas, among both rental housing tenants and duty bearers responsible for service provision
3. To understand attitudes of urban poor community members and duty bearers towards GBV and analyse how these attitudes may contribute to the normalisation of violence and harassment
4. To make clear, actionable recommendations in relation to GBV in urban poor communities

1.4. Research Flow



1.5. Location of Study

The research focuses on the specific themes related to GBV in the rental housing in three-selected districts (Russey Keo, Mean Chey and Donkor) in Phnom Penh. In each of these target research areas, PIN and/or UPWD have had a prior presence and relationship with the community. The rationale for selecting rental accommodation sites for the study is that, as laid out by STT in a recent report, ‘the speed of growth in Phnom Penh has brought increased urban poverty, as scarcity of land and appropriate housing and urban infrastructure pushes residents into precarious rental housing situations.’¹⁸ Women living in poverty, and migrant women in particular, are considered especially vulnerable to GBV, and fear of violence and harassment has been shown to restrict their mobility.¹⁹ Therefore, the study focuses on the areas in which low income earning migrant women live and examines their specific experiences of violence and perceptions of fear in their communities.

| Khan | Sangkat | Village |
|------------|------------------|--------------|
| Russey Keo | Chrang Chamres 2 | Village Kor |
| Meanchey | Chak Angre Ler | Bueng Tompun |
| Donkor | Cheung Ek | Cheung Ek |

¹⁷ In this study, ‘woman’ refers to non-specifically to both cis and trans women. It is a limitation of this research that the SOGIE status of participants was not gathered and so the data cannot be disaggregated between gender identity or sexual orientation.

¹⁸ STT, (2014) *The Phnom Penh Rental Housing Survey: A Study on Urban Poor Rental Housing in Phnom Penh* <https://kh.boell.org/sites/default/files/stt-rental-housing-survey_2014_final.pdf>

¹⁹ ActionAid International (2014), *ibid.*

2. Research Methodology

2.1. Literature Review

2.1.1. Current available literature examining GBV in Cambodia

There is a growing body of literature produced primarily by practitioners (NGOs/ CBOs) and institutions (UN agencies, IFIs) examining the prevalence of GBV in Cambodia. It is hoped that this study will add to that body of literature, looking at a micro level into three urban poor communities and analysing the experiences and perceptions of different types of stakeholders in relation to domestic violence and non-intimate partner violence including street harassment. It also seeks to fill a noted gap in the literature by mapping the differential attitudes towards the adequacy of response service provision, between those at the user level (women) and service providers themselves (local authorities, police, NGOs).

2.1.2. Current legal framework on GBV in Cambodia

The current national legal and policy framework for protecting women's rights in Cambodia is considered relatively comprehensive.²⁰ There are a number of articles in the National Constitution of Cambodia that support gender equality.²¹ Legislation on domestic violence was passed in 2005, covering certain forms of physical violence, mental violence and marital rape.²² Rape and attempted rape carry punishments of five to fifteen years imprisonment within the national criminal code.²³ The core strategic document for relevant line ministries and civil society organisations working specifically to end GBV is the National Action Plan to prevent Violence Against Women (NAPVAW II), the core objective of which is to 'encourage the enforcement of the law to prevent and reduce all forms of violence against women.' The plan stresses the need for a standardised system for data collection from different sources to monitor the frequency and extent of gender-based violence.²⁴

Improvements are needed in certain pieces of legislation to ensure they fully protect women under the law. For instance, there are issues with the definition of sexual harassment within the Criminal Code, as it appears to refer exclusively to abuses of formal authority, ie employer/ employee relationships.²⁵ The criminalisation of sex work in both the Anti-Human Trafficking Law (2008) and the Village Commune Safety Policy has reportedly led to increased vulnerability of sex workers, and increased violence and discrimination against them by authorities. The anti-trafficking law was described in 2016 by Human Rights Watch as a "badly written law... leading to a human rights disaster for sex workers who walk the streets."²⁶ Civil society organisations are advocating for amendments to the wording of the relevant legislation and policies, but progress in this area has been slow to date.²⁷

²⁰ Cambodian Centre for Human Rights 'Fact Sheet: Violence Against Women in Cambodia' (December 2018)

<https://cchrcambodia.org/admin/media/factsheet/factsheet/english/CCHR%20Factsheet_Violence%20Against%20Women_ENG.pdf>

²¹ National Constitution of Cambodia, Arts 31, 35, 36, 38, 43, 45, 46, 72 and 73

²² The Law on The Prevention of Domestic Violence The Protection of Victims (2005)

<https://www.wcwonline.org/pdf/lawcompilation/Cambodia_dv_victims2005.pdf>

²³ Cambodian Criminal Code, Arts. 239 and 240 <http://sithi.org/admin/upload/law/Criminal_Code_Book_with_cover_Jan_2014.pdf>

²⁴ ActionAid International, (2013) *Women and the City II*, <<http://www.actionaid.org/publications/women-and-city-2>>

²⁵ "Sexual harassment" shall mean the abuse by one person of the authority conferred by his or her functions against another person for the purpose of applying pressure repeatedly in order to obtain sexual favours." Cambodian Criminal Code, Art. 250

²⁶ Kong Meta, "Phnom Penh sex workers stuck between Prey Speu and the street," *The Phnom Penh Post* (26 August 2016)

<<https://www.phnompenhpost.com/post-weekend/phnom-penh-sex-workers-stuck-between-prey-speu-and-street>>

²⁷ CCHR, 'Factsheet: VCSP' (2012) <https://cchrcambodia.org/index_old.php?url=media/media.php&p=factsheet_detail.php&fsid=27&id=5>

2.2. Data Collection Methods

As well as secondary data gathered and analysed via the literature review process, primary data was collected at field research sites in each of the urban poor communities. This part of the research process served to gather first-hand accounts of individuals' lived experiences of GBV, as well as their perceptions of the adequacy of relevant service provision in their local areas. FGDs and KIIs formed the primary research methods, due to the richness of the data they provided. However, this qualitative data was also then triangulated with quantitative household surveys in a mixed methods approach.

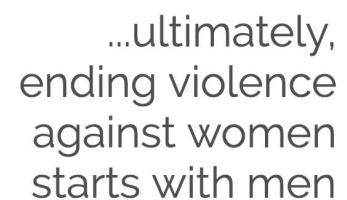
2.2.1. Focus Group Discussions

- Women (3x groups of respondents)

Semi-structured interviews with women took place in a quiet, private location where participants would feel most comfortable. Participants were invited to share their own accounts of violence that they themselves had experienced, or that they were aware of having occurred in their communities.

- Men (3x groups of respondents)

When seeking to combat male violence against women, an essential element is attitudinal and behaviour change of men. Research shows that despite how safe the urban environment is rendered via improved infrastructure, if domestic violence is seen as 'normal' and men feel a continued sense of entitlement over women's bodies – for instance in public spaces at night time – then gender-based violence will continue to occur.²⁸ With this in mind, FGDs were conducted to



...ultimately,
ending violence
against women
starts with men

Women's rights NGO worker, KII

invite men to share their own experiences with GBV, their perceptions of 'safety' in their communities, and to signal their attitudes as to the level of culpability that survivors of GBV should be apportioned.

2.2.2. Key Informant Interviews

- Village Chiefs (4x respondents)

Village Chiefs play an essential role in many communities in providing response services to survivors. Under the 2005 DV law, Village Chiefs are also given powers to mediate between spouses in a process of 'reconciliation', though this practice is only permitted if the parties involved wish it and the offences are purely psychological or economic, or the violent acts are characterised as minor misdemeanours.²⁹ The reported misuse of this informal practice of mediation has recently come under fire following civil society reports³⁰ and the murder of a woman in Takeo by her abusive husband following local authority-officiated reconciliation, which received significant media attention.³¹ Due to the key role

²⁸ ActionAid International (2014) *ibid.*

²⁹ Article 1, Law on the Prevention of Domestic Violence and the Protection of Victims, 2005.

³⁰ LICADHO, (2017) "No Punishment, No Protection: Cambodia's Reponse to Domestic Violence" http://www.licadho-cambodia.org/reports/files/225DV_Report_Eng_20171201.pdf

³¹ Handley, Erin and Chheng, Niem, "Spousal killings call commune officials' mediation role into question" *The Phnom Penh Post*, January 19, 2018 <<https://www.phnompenhpost.com/national-post-depth/spousal-killings-call-commune-officials-mediation-role-question>>

that Village Chiefs play in facilitating survivors' access to justice, they have been included in this study; understanding their attitudes towards the prevalence of GBV in their communities is paramount.

- Commune Committee for Women and Children (CCWC) (4x respondents)

The CCWC plays a key role in many Sangkats in promoting the protection of women's rights. The CCWC is responsible for responding to and referring female victims of violence (including sexual harassment) to government institutions or other community resources.³² Challenges faced by the CCWC in carrying out their duties include minimal funding and a lack of informal and formal decision making power. However, they remain a core stakeholder at the local level and the interviews with the participants from the CCWC provide useful insights into the attitudes of women duty bearers – particularly in relation to perceptions of culpability of survivors in cases of DV or non-intimate partner violence.

- Community Leaders (6x respondents)

In a similar way to the CCWC, interviewing Community Leaders as key informants provides insight into how women in leadership positions who survivors may turn to following instances of GBV themselves perceive their role and the adequacy of the services available to women in their communities.

- NGO staff (5x respondents)

When undertaking research, especially as an international organisation or foreign research consultant, it is essential to take time to understand the efforts already underway in the space. Local women's rights activists and grassroots organisations, social movements and trade unions have been working on the ground for decades laying the foundation for the gains that have been hard won in recent years. As such, as well as a literature review examining such important advocacy tools as United Sisterhood's People Policy, primary research also was undertaken to learn from core members of the women's rights community how they perceive GBV issues in the urban poor communities they work in, and how and via what avenues they see change being realised.

2.2.3. Household Interviews (167x respondents)

In order to triangulate the data gathered during the FGDs and KIIs, household surveys were conducted across each of the target research areas. Due to the highly sensitive nature of the subject matter, these surveys were purely quantitative and did not ask probing follow-up questions of respondents. The surveys provide a useful alternative source of data showing potential patterns across specific geographic locales, but due to the limited sample size the results should be examined alongside the richer, long-form responses from the KIIs and FGDs.

2.3. Analysis methodology

In order to utilise all of the data effectively and structure the research report coherently, the qualitative data was interpreted and analysed using Braun and Clarke's method of thematic analysis.³³ This meant first

³² CARE Cambodia (2017) "A guide to good practices in responding to violence against women at the Sangkat/ Commune level"

³³ Braun, V. & Clarke, V. (2006). Using thematic analysis in psychology. *Qualitative Research in Psychology*, 3, 77-101.

consolidating all of the individual KIIs according to each stakeholder type (police, community leader, etc) and then closely examining that data in order to become familiar with the content and to generate initial themes. Following this process, the data was examined a second time and was coded line-by-line in accordance with the thematic content of the data. Each code was then extracted into a separate, thematically oriented document for ease and rigour of analysis. For instance, for the theme of '*victim blaming*,' any and all content from the raw data relevant to that theme was extracted and analysed together prior to the report-writing stage.

The quantitative data from the household survey was exported via Kobo and analysed using Google Sheets. A series of hypotheses were written out based on the learnings from the qualitative analysis process, and filters were used to test those hypotheses accordingly. For instance, the hypothesis 'garment workers consider their rental room areas to be less safe than housewives living in the same area' was tested by filtering and analysing the survey responses and was found to be unverifiable – the data indicated that both groups of women had similar perceptions of safety.

2.4. Limitations of the research

- A key limitation of the study was the small sample size, particularly of the household surveys – which, being quantitative in nature, require a large number of responses in order for clear and verifiable patterns to be identified
- Follow up questions could not be asked during the household interview process, due to the limited time of researchers and the potential ethical concerns relevant to asking participants probing questions about sensitive issues on their doorstep. While this could not be avoided, it means that the quantitative data provides a given response to a question – but not the *why* behind that response. This limitation was identified early and mitigated through triangulation with the qualitative interviews
- Only two of the 167 household surveys were male respondents, meaning that the quantitative data could not be disaggregated by gender.

2.5. Ethical considerations

Ethical issues were identified and considered through all stages of the research process. After early concerns were raised within the research team about potential risks to participants in being asked probing, long-form questions about personal experiences of violence during household surveys, these questions were removed and replaced with more generic short-form (yes/ no) questions about violence in the area. The enumerators also emphasised to each participant that they were surveying the area generally, and that their household had not been singled out. Additionally, the enumerators offered to come back at a later time, or to speak at a different location than the household if desired by the participant.

FGDs and KIIs were conducted in safe, private locations arranged by UPWD. Respondents were issued Participant Information Statements and Consent Forms (see Appendices 5.1 and 5.2) detailing the voluntary nature of their involvement in the research and their ability to withdraw from the study at any time. All participants have been anonymised in the report to maintain their confidentiality.

3. Discussion and Findings

3.1. Perceptions of safety in and around rental rooms in the target research areas

How safe is the area for women at night?

A majority of respondents interviewed in the KIIs and FGDs indicated that women in their communities feel unsafe in the areas around their rental rooms. The data included the following notable observations:

- Several respondents noted that where tenants had to use shared bathrooms, the perceptions of unsafety were greatly increased
- One respondent observed that women felt more afraid when they were alone without their husbands
- Several respondents listed a lack of street lighting and small roads as making women feel unsafe, particularly those working night shifts as they may be approached on their way home
- Fear of drug users and of thieves were expressed by several respondents.

It should also be noted that some respondents felt their areas were very safe - one woman respondent from Chrang Chamres said the following: *"It is safe - our village lives in harmony."* Interestingly, one respondent, an NGO worker from Chak Angre Leu, advised that women in her community did not feel unsafe – simply because they had become used to unsafe conditions.

We also have some fear around our rental rooms.

We are concerned that a drug user could walk inside the community, and we are afraid of robbery.

This area is far from a police post.

Woman FGD respondent
Chak Angre Leu

There is poor security. Women who have night shifts feel unsafe because the road is so dark and there are no street lights.

Rental rooms are not comfortable like owning our own houses.

So we can't trust people and can't decide who is bad or good.

Male respondent
Choeung Ek

How safe do women feel inside their rental rooms?

Just under half of respondents interviewed in the KIIs and FGDs reported that women feel unsafe inside their rental rooms. The reasons given for this focused primarily on break-ins rather than domestic violence:

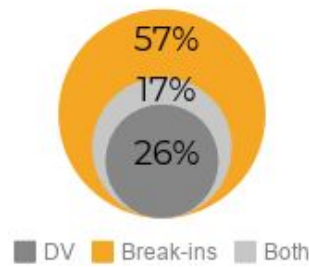
- Several respondents explained that the poor physical condition of the rooms (*"decaying"* as one put it), made them easy targets for burglaries. *"It is unsafe inside the rooms. Rapists, thieves could break into our house since it's not well-built."*
- One respondent detailed a lack of security in their area, with the main gate left open all night. In cases of theft, the landlord was unresponsive: *"The landlord doesn't stay in this house, they just come to take the rental fee once per month. When thieves break in to our room, they don't help to check the security camera, and never help to find a solution when our property is stolen from the room..."*
- One respondent listed drunken neighbours as a reason for experiencing fear inside her rental room
- Aside from DV and break-ins, one respondent also reported feeling unsafe due to a lack of electricity, and the risk of flooding which they advised was especially dangerous for woman and children.

Again, some respondents advised that they felt safe inside their rooms and had not had any problems.

"It is unsafe inside the rooms. Rapists and thieves could break into our house since it's not well-built."

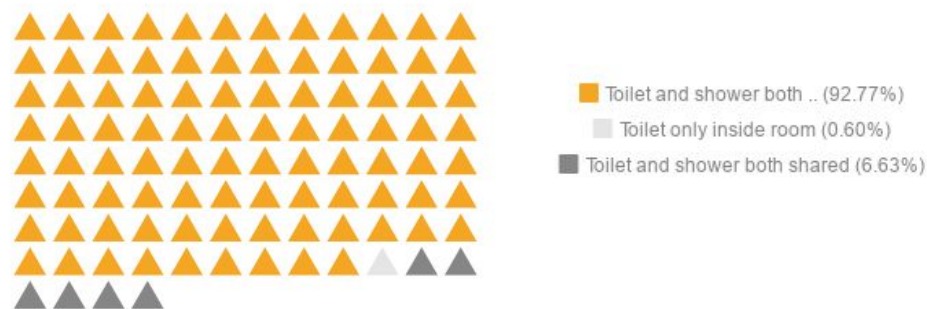
Male FGD Respondent, Chak Angre Leu

Figure 1: Perceived danger inside rooms: Due to DV or break-ins?



Many more respondents of the household survey indicated that they thought women felt afraid inside their rooms because of break-ins, than because of domestic violence. This is despite the fact that 35% reported witnessing or being aware of domestic violence being perpetrated inside rental rooms in their area (see section 3.2). The reason for the low number of respondents indicating DV in this graph may be related to language: when we are asked questions about the word ‘safety’ we may tend to think more of ‘stranger danger’ than of danger of intimate partners, despite the reality being that domestic violence is the most common form of GBV.

Figure 2: Shared toilet and shower facilities among HI respondents



Within the qualitative data (FGDs and KIIs), there are several references to shared bathrooms as a cause for heightened perceptions of unsafety: “Women feel unsafe, especially at night because they have to use shared bathrooms on another floor” (Community leader, Chrang Chamres). However, because the household survey data contains almost exclusively respondents who have private bathrooms, the qualitative data cannot be triangulated. There is therefore a need for further research targeting rental rooms with shared communal bathrooms in order to determine whether this is – as the qualitative data indicates – a key risk factor for perceptions of unsafety in urban poor communities.

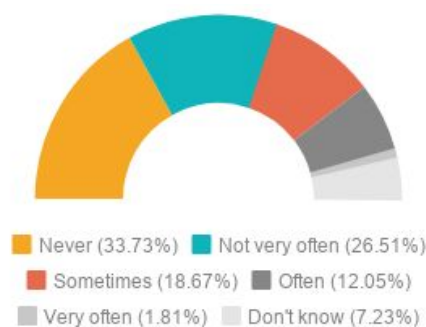
Similarly, many respondents in the long-form interviews identified a lack of street lighting as a cause of women feeling afraid or vulnerable in the areas around their rental rooms or while en route home from work late at night. However, the household survey data indicated that a majority of respondents (69 per cent) actually felt that the areas around their own rooms were adequately lit for safety purposes. Several mentioned the recent installation of streetlights by PIN and local authorities in their response.

Finally of note is the common perception that it is highly dangerous, especially for women, to try and interfere in cases of GBV. The risks posed by attempting bystander intervention were mentioned in a number of responses, including one woman who was physically beaten after trying to prevent her neighbour from being assaulted by her husband.

3.2. Prevalence of different types of GBV in the target research areas

3.2.1. Sexual Harassment

Figure 3: Prevalence of sexual harassment in public spaces - household survey data



Some 60% of respondents think that harassment takes place in nearby public spaces, though the frequency varied widely (26% felt it did not happen often, whereas only 14% felt it was a frequent occurrence). Perhaps surprisingly, one third of respondents indicated that sexual harassment *never* takes place in their communities.

Figure 4: Correlation between prevalence of harassment/ violence and perceptions of unsafety

| | % of respondents who indicated sexual harassment is a problem in their area | % of respondents who indicated they think their area is 'unsafe' for women | % of respondents who think women tenants feel unsafe in their area | % of respondents who have witnessed or are aware of GBV in their area |
|------------------|---|--|--|---|
| Chrang Chamres | 26.5 | 20.0 | 17.1 | 20 |
| Chak Angre Leu | 26.8 | 23.2 | 32.1 | 30.4 |
| Russey Keo | 27.2 | 33.3 | 22.2 | 22.2 |
| Cherng Ek | 52.7 | 36.3 | 40.0 | 32.7 |
| Chrang Chamres 2 | 80 | 40.0 | 90.0 | 40 |

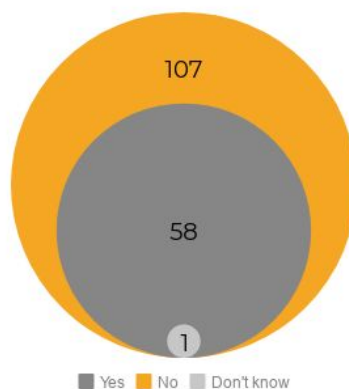
Key finding: The household survey data as mapped out in the above table appears to indicate that the prevalence of sexual harassment in an area correlates directly with how safe that area is perceived by its residents. More research should be done to further explore the apparent links (and any causation) between the prevalence of sexual harassment in a community and heightened perceptions of danger among those who live there.

3.2.2. Violence perpetrated by persons other than partners

- Some 48 respondents (29%) indicated that they were personally aware of or had witnessed violence or harassment in the public areas around local rental rooms (see below Figure 5). This is 10 respondents fewer than those who reported having witnessed domestic violence, meaning that while tenants were more fearful of 'stranger danger,' (as per Figure 1), in reality they were more likely witness to domestic violence in their own communities.
- Zero respondents in either the qualitative or quantitative data felt that landlords were perpetrators of GBV in their communities
- Many respondents in both the qualitative and quantitative data reported that violence around rental rooms was carried out by 'drug users,' gangsters and thieves. It should be noted that this study is capturing and reporting the personal views of the respondents, while cognizant of the fact that such data does not necessarily reflect the true reality of who is perpetrating GBV. There are a number of reasons why 'drug users' may have kept arising as a theme within the data. Stigma against a vulnerable and marginalised population is one explanation. Further – ideally in-depth – research should be done to examine the relationship, if any exists, between substance abuse and perpetration of violent crimes against women.



Figure 5: Awareness of instances of violence or harassment occurring in the areas around local rental rooms



3.2.3. Domestic/ intimate partner violence

The qualitative data (FGDs and KIIs) provides a rich snapshot of the reality of domestic violence in the target research areas. Despite the overwhelming opinion among respondents that DV is decreasing (see section 3.4), it is clearly still prevalent to a significant extent in at least a majority of the communities. Some notable trends from the qualitative data are captured below:

- A large number of responses mentioned the influence of alcohol and/or drugs on the perpetrator

- Unequal power dynamics between men and women: DV was painted by several respondents as a method men use to exert control over their partners: “A husband will usually hit his wife when he asks for money from her to buy alcohol and she rejects his request” (NGO worker, Chak Angre Leu). Jealousy and anger also featured in a number of responses
- Some respondents spoke candidly about the negative impacts of domestic violence on their own lives: *[Domestic] Violence is a big problem because it has produced destructive consequences on my family, for instance family breakup, financial deprivation and so on.* (Male FGD respondent, Chak Angre Leu)
- From the quantitative (household survey) data, almost 60% of respondents felt that husbands were the main perpetrators of GBV in their communities (see below Figure 7)
- From the quantitative (household survey) data, over a third (58 respondents) said that they had personally witnessed or were aware of a GBV incident that had happened in their area inside rental rooms (see Figure 6 below). It should be noted that this violence could have been carried out inside the room by someone other than a husband - it is a limitation of the data that this figure cannot be disaggregated by perpetrator.

[Domestic violence] is my own story – my husband and I used to argue with each other. And he punched me and also blamed me because he was a drug user at that time. He never cared about the kids - no matter what I said, he was always angry. It's such a bad story and some scenes are violent and may disturb my children's memories.

Woman FGD respondent
Choueng Ek

Figure 6: Who do you think are the main perpetrators of GBV against women living in this area?

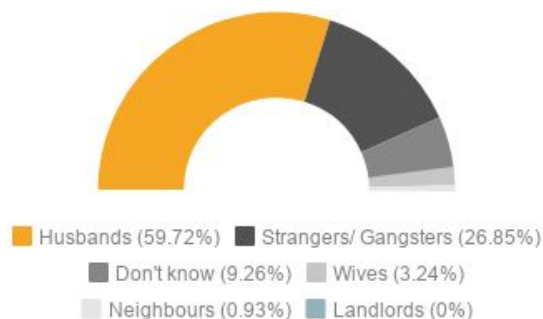
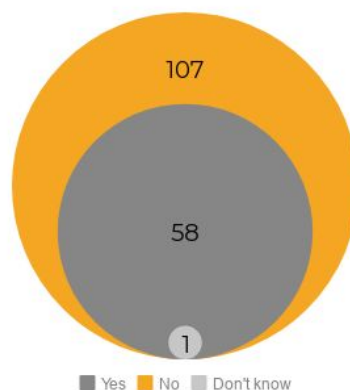


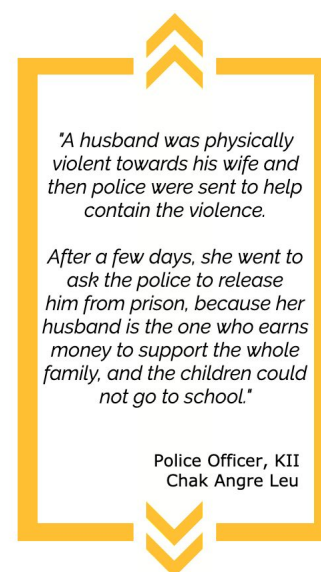
Figure 7: Awareness of any instances of violence or harassment occurring inside rental rooms in this area?



3.3. Accessibility of gender responsive public services

What services are being provided, by whom, and are they adequate?

- Only around a third of respondents advised that police patrol the areas around their neighbourhood. However, of those, a vast majority feel that such patrolling is effective in preventing GBV in public spaces, with over **87%** labeling it as somewhat or very effective (see Figures 8 and 9)
- Attitudes towards the efficacy of police in the FGDs and KIIs varied widely. One Village Chief reported that *“Women feel safe because police patrol the area 24 hours a day.”* One woman FGD respondent from Chrang Chamres 2 shared this experience when asked if police patrolling helped her to feel more safe: *“Yes. It offers a sense of safety. If anything were to happen to us, they can help us immediately. Police officers provided us their numbers, so we can call them when something bad happens.”* In contrast, a male FGD respondent from Chak Angre Leu reported that: *“The police come with different purposes, usually to combat gambling... and only during daytime. They are motivated by money rather than by the safety of citizens. If there was homicide, police wouldn’t be in sight since there’s no police station around this area.”* A woman from Chak Angre Leu felt that *“[The police] do not care much about poor people.”* The data indicates that attitudes towards police are influenced by specific geographical location and respondents’ personal interactions with officers.
- Responses from police themselves during the KII interviews revealed some interesting data: Encouragingly, themes of ‘community policing’ emerged, with respondents highlighting their role in reducing violence through a more active community presence. This included patrolling targeted areas and liaising with NGOs and authorities to educate the community about GBV
- Awareness of shelter accommodation was mixed across each area. This may have been the result of some confusion about what the question was specifically asking: For instance, many respondents indicated that there was shelter, but when prompted they explained that the shelter available was in the form of the village chief’s home, a relative or neighbour’s house, or in the survivor’s home province. More research should be done to examine the availability of appropriate shelter accommodation for survivors of GBV
- Over half of the respondents in the household survey data reported knowing what a protection order is and where a woman can obtain one. This result is surprisingly high, considering the government’s own data indicates that the levels of women accessing protection orders is extremely low.³⁴ More research should be done investigating what respondents understand these orders to be and what interactions they have had with them.



³⁴ Royal Government of Cambodia, (2017) Sixth periodic report to the CEDAW Committee: “From 2014-2016, a total of 19 protection orders were issued in six of the 12 provinces with forms and systems in place.”

Figure 8: Do police patrol this area at night?

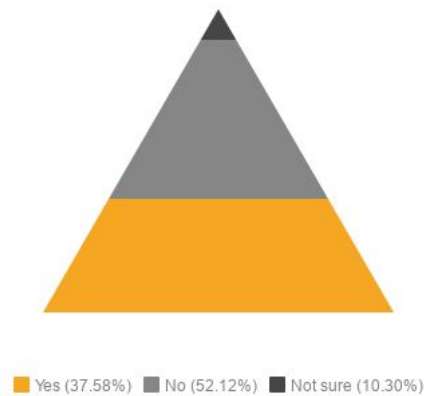
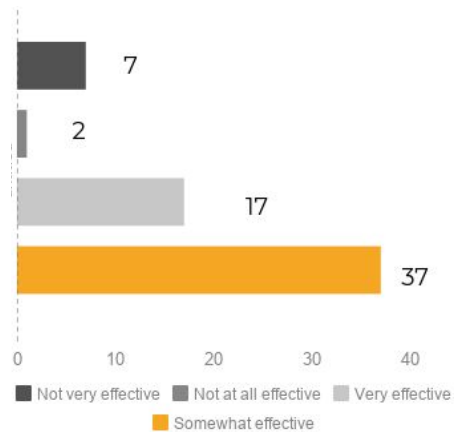


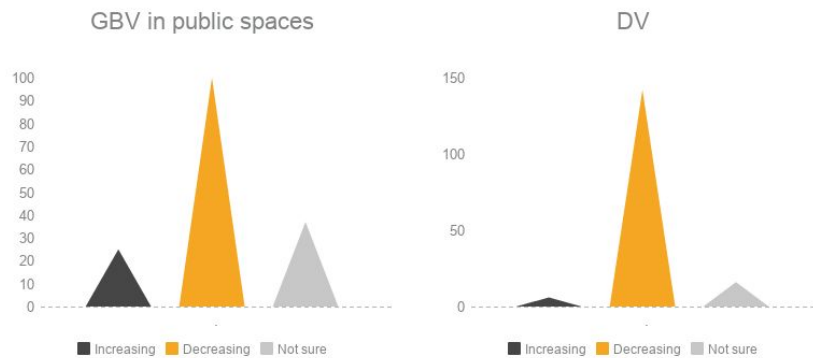
Figure 9: If yes, how effective is this in preventing GBV?



3.4. Community norms and attitudes towards GBV

- The qualitative research indicates that the majority of respondents have a strong understanding of what constitutes GBV, with many also including harassment and emotional violence in their responses
- Existing social and cultural power dynamics and imbalances can create difficulties in dealing with cases of GBV: In a domestic violence incident perpetrated by a traffic police officer against his wife, a woman village chief reported facing difficulty in providing counselling because the perpetrator “*thought he had more power*” than her. In another case, a woman did not report violence as she was afraid “*others would look down on her and her whole family*”.
- **Key finding:** Almost every respondent in both the qualitative research, and the vast majority of household survey respondents advised that GBV was decreasing in their community (see figure 10). Indeed, 142 respondents in the survey felt DV was decreasing, against just six who felt that it was increasing. Some reasons given for this perceived decrease include the following:
 - “*It is decreasing. Because we gain more understanding and know more about the law. NGOs, local authorities and relevant stakeholders have provided us with education.*” (Male FGD)
 - “*It’s decreased in the last 10 years. There were some NGOs related to human rights who have helped to visit the community and train them about GBV. So people [now] understand a lot about the law.*” (Female FGD)
 - “*It has been decreasing since 2010. Because we bring our problems to be discussed and tolerate each other [better]. The village chief is also active in mediating the problem*” (Female FGD)
 - “*Back in 2016 and 2017, there were many cases of violence. The number is decreasing because NGOs helped the community so it’s easier to call the villagers together for meetings about violence*” (Community Leader, KII)
 - “*It has been decreasing since 2018 because the Committee for Women and Children has educated local people about domestic violence.*” (Community leader, KII)
 - “*It’s decreasing as a result of most of the rental rooms having bathrooms inside*” (Police, KII)
 - “*It’s decreasing. NGO used to work in the area regarding GBV. Police help educate the villagers as well. The domestic violence rate has dropped since 2015/2016 onward.*” (Police, KII)

Figure 10: Do you think GBV is increasing or decreasing? (Household survey)



Are women being blamed for violence perpetrated against them?

Despite the (at least perceived) reductions in rates of GBV, women who do experience violence still face a significant degree of blame apportioned to them by some members of the community, including by some community leaders and duty bearers. In the quantitative (household survey data), almost half of respondents (46%) felt that women were at least sometimes to blame for violence committed against them by their husbands.

Particularly notable responses in the KIIs and FGDs included the following:

Sometimes to blame

- Police officer: Women are sometimes to blame for DV if *‘The woman was playing gambling.’*
- Police officer: Women are sometimes to blame for violence in public spaces if *‘The woman was walking alone at midnight.’*
- Woman respondent, FGD: Women are sometimes to blame for DV, *“for example when women don’t do housework. But most of the time, women are not to blame. Especially when the husband has cheated on us and abused us.*
- Community leader, KII: Women are sometimes to blame for DV: *“Some women did not know and do their roles (for example cooking or taking care of children)”*
- Community leader, KII: Women are sometimes to blame for violence in public spaces: *“Sometimes mothers did not take care of their daughters well, and their daughters have become rape victims.”*
- Community Leader, KII: Women are sometimes to blame for violence in public spaces: *“Sometimes it is because of the way women dress (too sexy, or revealing)”*

Not at all to blame

- Male FGD respondent: Women are never to blame for DV: *“We should not blame women. Because she is the victim, we can’t blame her. And the husband should come to the wife and say sorry to her.”*
- CCWC respondent: Women are never to blame for violence in public spaces because *‘We cannot blame when a girl wears too revealing clothes. It is her own body.’*
- Female FGD respondent: Women are never to blame for violence in public spaces: *“Women are not to blame at all cost. Physical abuse against women is always wrong.”*

4. Recommendations and Conclusion

4.1. Recommendations

- Where this study has identified issues warranting further investigation, further research should be conducted. This includes the following:
 - Research focusing on particularly vulnerable groups of women and their experiences of GBV in urban poor communities, for instance sex workers or transgender women
 - Research investigating the relationship between shared bathrooms and prevalence of GBV
 - Research investigating the efficacy of street lighting in reducing the prevalence of GBV
 - Research exploring the apparent links (and any causation) between the prevalence of sexual harassment in a community and heightened perceptions of danger among those who live there
- Given that ending victim-blaming norms is central to ending GBV and impunity for offenders, and the results found in Section 3.4, (community norms and attitudes towards GBV), it is recommended that any future programmatic interventions should include specific attitudinal change objectives, and provide education and strong messaging on women's sexual autonomy and bodily integrity
- The FGD perceptions of violence and efficacy of response mechanisms varied significantly between locations. Thus, while GBV exists in every community, it is not a problem with a one-size-fits-all solution. Any interventions should be tailored to the specific community following a comprehensive, participatory needs assessment and rolled out in ongoing consultation with community members
- Work with local police and authorities to further increase community policing activities (community outreach and night-time patrolling) as these were considered effective by respondents in reducing GBV

4.2. Conclusion

It is hoped that this report, though small in scale, will contribute to a growing body of literature examining the prevalence of and attitudes towards GBV in urban poor communities in Cambodia. The study has indicated several key trends that can be used to guide programmatic interventions. These include, firstly, addressing a lack of gender responsive public services at the local level, such as street lighting and shelter accommodation.

On a positive note, the research also indicated the increased prevalence in some areas of community policing activities. These include activities to build trust with community members, such as provision of phone numbers to households, and carrying out crime prevention activities like night-time patrolling. These activities have been well received by those communities: A vast majority of respondents (over 80 per cent) who indicated that patrolling takes place in their area, also reported feeling this was effective in reducing GBV.

Secondly, GBV was perceived by a vast majority of respondents to be **decreasing** in the target communities. This finding should be investigated further, as should the accompanying long-form answers giving reasons for this perceived decrease. Interestingly, a majority of responses explained that the reason for GBV decreasing was due to interventions launched by NGOs in partnership with local authorities. This finding in itself is useful, in that it indicates that community members see the value of sustained local-level engagement by NGOs in reducing GBV – it is therefore recommended that these types of interventions should be evaluated and scaled up where appropriate.

Lastly, the study found a strong trend towards perceptions of societal blame towards survivors of GBV. Accordingly, attitudinal and behavioural change should form core objectives of any programming, campaigning or advocacy efforts, with the aim of ending the normalisation of GBV and any culture of impunity for offenders.

Appendices

5.1. Participant Information Statement (original in Khmer language)



Participant Information Statement

“Gender issues and Domestic Violence in Urban Poor Communities in Phnom Penh.”

(1) What is the study about?

You are invited to participate in a study of gender based violence in urban communities of Phnom Penh.

(2) Who is carrying out the study?

The study is being conducted by researchers from two NGOs, People in Need and UPWD.

(3) How much time will my participation in the study take?

The interview will last approximately 60 minutes.

(4) Can I withdraw from the study?

Being in this study is completely voluntary - you are not under any obligation to consent and - if you do consent - you can withdraw at any time without affecting your relationship with PIN or UPWD.

(5) Will anyone else know the results?

All aspects of the study, including results, will be strictly confidential and only the researchers will have access to information on participants. A report of the study may be submitted for publication, but individual participants will not be identifiable in such a report.

(6) Will the study benefit me?

The research will be beneficial to you and your community in the sense that such research is important in establishing how NGOs and duty bearers can work to prevent gender based violence. However, we do not guarantee that you or your community will receive any direct benefits or service provision resulting from the study.

(7) Can I tell other people about the study?

Yes. However if you are participating in a focus group discussion with other participants you must agree to keep any information they share confidential.

(8) What if I require further information about the study or my involvement in it?

If you would like to know more at any stage, please feel free to contact Daniel Crowther from PIN on XXXXXXXX

This information sheet is for you to keep

5.2. Consent form (original in Khmer language)



Participant Consent Form

I,[PRINT NAME], give consent to my participation in the research project “*Gender issues and Domestic Violence in Urban Poor Communities in Phnom Penh.*”

In giving my consent I acknowledge that:

1. The procedures required for the project and the time involved have been explained to me, and any questions I have about the project have been answered to my satisfaction.
2. I have read the Participant Information Statement and have been given the opportunity to discuss the information and my involvement in the project with the researcher/s.
3. I understand that being in this study is completely voluntary – I am not under any obligation to consent.
4. I understand that my involvement is strictly confidential. I understand that any research data gathered from the results of the study may be published however no information about me will be used in any way that is identifiable.
5. I understand that I can stop the interview at any time if I do not wish to continue, and the information provided will not be included in the study.
6. I consent to audio-recording of the interview.

.....

Signature

.....

Date

5.3. Key Informant Interview questionnaire

Questionnaires for Key Informant Interview (KII)

Consent Statement. An introductory paragraph is provided below.

Hello my name:I am an interviewer from People In Need Cambodia. 'I'm here to conduct research as part of a study about GBV taking place within and around rental accommodation in this area, in order to give us an idea in the future of how to intervene or deal with problems that have happened. The discussion will take less than one hour. All information you provide is confidential. This interview is voluntary, and you are not under any pressure to participate. If you do decide to participate, you can pause or stop the interview at any time. Are you happy to go ahead with the interview?

RESPONDENT'S DETAILS

(This section may be completed immediately after consent form)

Commune/Sangkat: District/Khan: Location (Building No. and Street No.):
Respondent's name: Sex: Age: Position: Organization:
Date of interview:
Interview start time: Interview end time:

Section A: General Information about Rental Housing in Sangkat

1. Where are the rental housing areas in the Sangkat? Locate in the A3 sized map
2. What do you think about the conditions of rental housing in the area? (prompts: good, bad, small, unsafe)
3. Are bathrooms located inside the rental rooms? (circle one)
Yes/ No/ Usually/ Not usually
4. Do you think women tenants **feel unsafe** in the **areas around** their rental rooms? (alleyways, shared bathrooms, stairwells etc)
Yes/ No/ Not sure
If yes: why do you think they feel unsafe?
5. Do you think women tenants feel unsafe **inside** their rental rooms? (note: answers could include domestic violence, break-ins)
Yes/ No/ Not sure
If yes: why do you think they feel unsafe?
6. Do you think the areas around rooms are adequately lit at night time for safety purposes? (streetlights, stairway lights etc)
7. Do rental rooms have properly fitted locks?
Circle one: Yes/ No/ Usually/ Not usually/ Not sure
8. What are the main occupations of female tenants of rental rooms in this area?
9. What are the main occupations of male tenants of rental rooms in this area?
10. Does police patrolling take place in this sangkat?
Yes/ No/ Not sure
If no: Why not?
If yes:
 - a) How effective do you think this is in making women **feel** more safe?
 - b) How effective do you think this is in actually **preventing GBV** in public spaces?

Section B: GBV in and around rental housing

11. What do the words gender based violence mean to you? (prompt: physical violence, sexual violence, harassment, verbal abuse, domestic violence)
12. Are you aware of any instances of GBV occurring in the **areas around** rental rooms in this sangkat? (alleyways, shared bathrooms, stairwells etc)
 Yes/ No
 If yes: a) What happened?
 b) How often do you think this type of violence occurs?
13. Are you aware of any instances of GBV occurring **inside** rental rooms in this sangkat? (eg domestic violence or break ins)
 Yes/ No
 If yes: a) What happened?
 b) How often do you think this type of violence occurs?
14. Do you think that harassment of women is a problem in public spaces around rental rooms in this sangkat? (whistling, teasing, following, touching)
 Yes/ No/ Not sure
 If yes, what types of harassment are present?
15. Which kinds of violence do you think are **most common** in and around rental housing?
 a) Domestic violence inside rooms
 b) Sexual and other physical violence committed in public areas around rental rooms
 c) Sexual harassment (whistling, following, touching, unwanted sexual comments)
 d) Other:
 Space for any comments about why that response was chosen : _____
16. How often do you think GBV occurs **inside** rental housing? (circle one)
 Never/ very rarely/ rarely/ sometimes/ often/ very often
 Follow up question: Is this violence inside the room carried out by partners or during break-ins, or both?
17. How often do you think GBV occurs in the public **areas around** rental housing? (ie alleyways, streets, shared bathrooms, stairways etc (circle one)
 Never/ very rarely/ rarely/ sometimes/ often/ very often
18. Do you think rates of **domestic** violence are lower in other areas of the sangkat (non-rental rooms?)
 Yes/ No/ Not sure
 If yes: Why?
19. Do you think rates of violence of women in **public areas** are lower in other areas of the sangkat (non-rental rooms?)
 Yes/ No/ Not sure
 If yes: Why?
20. Do you think domestic violence **inside** rental rooms is increasing or decreasing? (Why? Since when?)
21. Do you think violence and harassment of women in public areas **around** rental rooms (streets, stairways, shared bathrooms etc) is increasing or decreasing? (Why? Since when?)

Section C: Reporting

22. Do you think women living in rental rooms who experience GBV are reporting those incidents?
 No/ rarely/ sometimes/ often/ yes
 Do you think reports have been increasing or decreasing? Since when and why?
23. To whom do these women report incidents of GBV?
 a. Sangkat? Why? _____
 b. Post Police? Why? _____
 c. NGOs, Associations (Name and why? _____
 d. Community (Name and why? _____
 e. Other: _____ Why? _____
24. How effective do you think police and local authorities are in **responding to** GBV that occurs in and around rental rooms? Not at all effective/ need improvement/ somewhat effective/ very effective
 Please elaborate: _____
25. How effective do you think police and local authorities are in **preventing** GBV that occurs in and around rental rooms? Not at all effective/ need improvement/ somewhat effective/ very effective
 Please elaborate: _____

26. What in your opinion are the **major causes** of GBVs in the rental housing? What factors influence or continue to sustain GBV? (probe: eg. poverty, low levels of education, cultural beliefs and values, alcoholism, exposure to media/poor role models, etc.)
27. Who do you think are the main perpetrators of GBV against women living in rental housing? (husbands, gangsters, landlords, strangers etc)
28. Who do you think are the main victims of GBVs in rental housing? (according to age, gender, socio-economic status etc)
29. What are some of the cultural beliefs and values that influence GBV in this rental housing?
 - a. are they changing at all? Why?
 - b. who are the people who maintain these beliefs and values?

Section D: GBV information and services in this Sangkat available to women living in rental rooms

30. What GBV services exist in this Sangkats when there is GBV in rental housing ?
 - a. Sangkat (services:
 - b. Post Police (services:
 - c. NGOs, Associations (list down name and services
 - d. Community (list down name and services
 - e. Other:
31. Is there **crisis accommodation** (shelters) available to women who need to seek shelter for safety?
 Yes/ No/ Not sure
 If yes: Is this accommodation run by an NGO or by the government, or other?
 If no: Where do women usually go to seek shelter from an abusive partner?
32. How effective do you think these strategies and services offered to survivors of GBV in this sangkat (if any) are? (circle one)
 Not at all effective/ need improvement/ somewhat effective/ very effective/ unsure/ there are no services
 Space for comments if any:
33. To your knowledge, are tenants involved in GBV prevention, response, awareness raising, etc.? Are there networks for preventing GBV in this sangkat? (if yes, prompt: Who is involved? What do they do? etc)
34. What legal facilities or personnel exist for victims/survivors of GBV in the area and for punishing perpetrators? (e.g., *Protection or Court Orders, Sangkat/ police, local/traditional methods*)
35. Do you know what a **protection order** is and where/ how a woman can obtain one?
 Yes/ No/ Not sure
 If yes, elaborate:
36. Do you or your team deal with GBV cases?
 Yes/ No
 If yes: a) How many cases per week/month/ year do you deal with GBV in rental housing?
 b) What is your approach to dealing with these cases? (mediation, referral to services, report to police etc)
37. To what extent do you think **women are to blame** for violence committed against them **by their husbands**?
 Not at all to blame/ Sometimes to blame/ Often to blame
 Elaborate if desired:
38. To what extent do you think women are to blame for the violence or harassment committed against them **by strangers in the public spaces** around their homes?
 Not at all to blame/ Sometimes to blame/ Often to blame
 Elaborate if desired:
39. What are some of the challenges that you face in preventing and **responding** to GBV?
40. How do you think challenges in preventing and responding to GBV could be addressed?

5.4. Focus Group Discussion questionnaire

Focus Group Discussion - Men

Note: The interviewer need to find the tenants who live in the renting housing more than 3 months as he or she is able to provide more information regarding GBVs in renting housing. Recommended group size 5 – 10.

Hello my name is:I am an interviewer from an NGO called People In Need Cambodia mean 'I'm here to conduct research as part of a study about GBV taking place within rental accommodation in this area, in order to give us an idea of how to intervene or deal with problems that have happened.

*The discussion will take less than one hour. All information you provide is confidential and your name will be never appear in the report. **This interview is voluntary, and you are not under any pressure to participate. If you do decide to participate, you can pause or stop the interview at any time.***

For the purpose of accuracy, we hope that you allow us to tape-record our interview, but this will not be shared with outsiders.

Are you each happy to participate in the interview? If yes please sign this consent form for our records.

NB: Interviewees need to be over the age of 18.

RESPONDENT'S DETAILS

(This section may be completed immediately after consent)

Province: District: Location: Community

Names and ages of respondents: Will be filled out in the consent form

Date of Discussion:

Facilitator:

Section A: General Information about Rental Housing in Sangkat

1. How many of you live alone? How many with a roommate? How many with a partner or wife?

| Alone | With a roommate | With a partner/ wife |
|-------|-----------------|----------------------|
| # | # | # |

2. What do you think about the conditions of rental housing in the area? (prompts: good, bad, small, unsafe)
3. Do you think women ever **feel unsafe outside** in the **areas around** rental rooms in this area? (alleyways, shared bathrooms, stairwells etc). Why?
4. Do you think women feel unsafe **inside** their rental rooms? (note: answers could involve domestic violence, worrying about people breaking in or other reason). Why?
5. Do you think the areas around rooms are **adequately lit** at night time for safety purposes? (streetlights, stairway lights etc)
6. Does **police patrolling** take place in this sangkat?
Yes/ No/ Rarely/ Not sure
If yes:
 - a) Does police patrolling in the community make you **feel** more safe? (if it doesn't exist, ask if it *would* make them feel more safe)
 - b) How effective do you think police patrolling is in actually **preventing GBV** in public spaces?

Section B: GBV in and around rental housing

7. What do the words gender based violence mean to you? (prompt if needed: physical violence, sexual violence, harassment, verbal abuse, domestic violence?)
8. Have any of you heard about or witnessed harassment against women in the **areas around** your rental rooms? (alleyways, shared bathrooms, stairwells etc)?
Jot down how many nod or raise their hands (eg 4/10) : _____
(If yes) would any of you like to share what happened?
9. How often do you think violence or harassment in public spaces like walkways, bathrooms etc occurs?
10. Have any of you heard about or witnessed domestic violence in your **area**? (alleyways, shared bathrooms, stairwells etc)? Jot down how many nod or raise their hands (eg 4/10) : _____
(If yes) would any of you like to share what happened?
11. Do you think that domestic violence is a big problem in your area?
12. What do you think is more of a problem facing women in the community: Domestic violence committed by a husband or partner, or violence or harassment in public spaces around rental rooms?
13. Do you think domestic violence **inside** rental rooms is increasing or decreasing? (Why? Since when?)
14. Do you think violence and harassment of women in public areas **around** rental rooms (streets, stairways, shared bathrooms etc) is increasing or decreasing? (Why? Since when?)

Section C: Reporting

15. Are women living in rental rooms who experience GBV are reporting those incidents? (prompt: If no, why not? If yes to whom?: (sangkat, post police, court, NGO, community leaders etc.))
16. How effective do you think police/ local authorities are in preventing or responding to GBV in your area?
17. What in your opinion are the **major causes** of GBVs in the rental housing? What factors influence or continue to sustain GBV? (probe: eg. poverty, low levels of education, some cultural beliefs and values, alcoholism, exposure to media/poor role models, etc.)
18. Who do you think are the main perpetrators of GBV against women living in rental housing? (husbands, gangsters, landlords, strangers etc)
19. Who do you think are the main victims of GBVs in rental housing? (according to age, gender, socio-economic status etc)
20. What are some of the cultural beliefs and values that influence GBV in this rental housing? Are they changing at all? Who are the people who maintain these beliefs and values?

Section D: GBV information and services in this Sangkat available to women living in rental rooms

21. What GBV services exist in this Sangkats when there is GBV in rental housing
22. Is there **crisis accommodation** (shelters) available to women who need to seek shelter for safety?
23. How effective do you think strategies and services offered to survivors of GBV in this sangkat (if any) are?
24. Are local women tenants involved in GBV prevention, response, awareness raising, etc.? Are there networks for preventing GBV in this sangkat? (if yes, prompt: Who is involved? What do they do? etc)
25. What legal services exist for victims/survivors of GBV in the area and for punishing perpetrators? (e.g., *Protection or Court Orders, Sangkat/ police, local/traditional methods*)
26. Do you know what a **protection order** is and where/ how a woman can obtain one?
27. To what extent do you think **women are to blame** for violence committed against them **by their husbands**?
28. To what extent do you think women are to blame for the violence or harassment committed against them **by strangers in the public spaces** around their homes?

29. How do you think challenges in preventing and responding to GBV could be addressed?

5.5. Household survey questionnaire

Household Interview – Local residents in rental rooms

Hello my name is I am an interviewer from and NGO called People In Need Cambodia. I'm conducting research as part of a study about GBV taking place within and around rental accommodation in this area, in order to give us an idea in the future of how to make the area safer for women. All information you provide is **confidential**. This interview is voluntary, and you're not under any pressure to participate. You can pause or stop the interview at any time.

Are you happy to go ahead with the survey? If yes please sign or initial here: _____

RESPONDENT'S DETAILS

Commune/Sangkat: _____ District/Khan: _____ Location (Building No. and Street No.): _____

Respondent's name: _____ Sex: _____ Age: _____ Occupation: _____

Date of interview: _____ Time of interview: _____

Section A: General Information about Rental Housing in Sangkat

1.

| | | | | |
|--|---------------|---------------|------|-----------|
| How safe do you think this area is for women at night? | Not very safe | Somewhat safe | Safe | Very safe |
|--|---------------|---------------|------|-----------|

2.

| | | | |
|--|-----|----|----------|
| Do you think women tenants feel unsafe in the areas around their rental rooms in this area? (alleyways, shared bathrooms, stairwells etc): | Yes | No | Not sure |
|--|-----|----|----------|

3.

| | | | |
|---|-----|----|----------|
| Do you think women tenants feel unsafe inside their rental rooms? (note: answers could include domestic violence, break-ins) | Yes | No | Not sure |
|---|-----|----|----------|

3B:

| | | | | |
|---|----|-----------|------|--------|
| If yes: Do you think they feel unsafe inside their rooms because of domestic violence or risk of break ins? | DV | Break ins | Both | Other: |
|---|----|-----------|------|--------|

4.

| | | | |
|--|-----|----|---------------|
| Do you think the area is adequately lit at night time for safety purposes? (streetlights, stairway lights etc) | Yes | No | Other answer: |
|--|-----|----|---------------|

5.

| | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Is your toilet and shower located inside your room or do you share these facilities? (circle one) | Toilet and shower both inside room | Toilet only inside room | Toilet and shower both shared |
|---|------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|

6.

| | | | |
|---|-----|----|---------------|
| Does your rental room have a properly fitted lock?: | Yes | No | Other answer: |
|---|-----|----|---------------|

7.

| | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|----|----------|---------------|
| Do police patrol this area at night? | Yes | No | Not sure | Other answer: |
|--------------------------------------|-----|----|----------|---------------|

7B: If yes, how effective do you think this is in making women **feel** more safe? (Circle one)

| | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Not at all effective | Not very effective | Somewhat effective | Very effective |
|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------|

7C: How effective do you think this is in actually **preventing GBV** in public spaces

| | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Not at all effective | Not very effective | Somewhat effective | Very effective |
|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------|

Section B: GBV in and around rental housing

8.

| | | | |
|--|-----|----|---------------|
| Are you aware of any instances of violence or harassment occurring in the areas around rental rooms in this area? (eg in alleyways, shared bathrooms, stairwells etc) | Yes | No | Other answer: |
|--|-----|----|---------------|

9.

| | | | | | |
|--|-------|----------------|-----------|-------|------------|
| How often do you think violence/ harassment in the nearby public spaces happens? | Never | Not very often | Sometimes | Often | Very often |
|--|-------|----------------|-----------|-------|------------|

10.

| | | | |
|--|-----|----|---------------|
| Are you aware of any instances of violence or harassment occurring inside rental rooms in the area? | Yes | No | Other answer: |
|--|-----|----|---------------|

11.

| | | | | | |
|---|-------|----------------|-----------|-------|------------|
| How often do you think domestic violence happens in the area? | Never | Not very often | Sometimes | Often | Very often |
|---|-------|----------------|-----------|-------|------------|

12.

| | | | | |
|--|----|-----|----------|---------------|
| Do you think that harassment of women is a problem in this area? (teasing, following, touching) | No | Yes | Not sure | Other answer: |
|--|----|-----|----------|---------------|

13.

| | | | | |
|---|------------|------------|----------|-------|
| Do you think DV in this area is increasing or decreasing? | Increasing | Decreasing | Not sure | Other |
|---|------------|------------|----------|-------|

14.

| | | | | |
|--|------------|------------|----------|-------|
| Do you think violence and harassment of women in public spaces in this area is increasing or decreasing? | Increasing | Decreasing | Not sure | Other |
|--|------------|------------|----------|-------|

Section C: Reporting

15.

| | | | | | | |
|---|-------------|---------|------|------|----------|--------|
| Where should a woman go to report GBV in this area? | Post Police | Sangkat | CCWC | NGOs | Not sure | Other: |
|---|-------------|---------|------|------|----------|--------|

16.

| | | | | |
|--|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| How effective do you think police and local authorities are in preventing GBV in this area? | Not at all effective | Not very effective | Somewhat effective | Very effective |
|--|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------|

17.

| | | | | |
|---|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| How effective do you think police and local authorities are in responding to GBV in this area? | Not at all effective | Not very effective | Somewhat effective | Very effective |
|---|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------|

18.

| | | | | | |
|--|----------|-----------|-----------|----------|--------|
| Who do you think are the main perpetrators of GBV against women living in this area? | Husbands | Landlords | Strangers | Gangster | Other: |
|--|----------|-----------|-----------|----------|--------|

Section D: GBV information and services in this Sangkat available to women living in rental rooms

19.

| | | | | | | |
|--|-------------|---------|------|------|----------|--------|
| Where can a woman go to access services and get help following GBV in this area? | Post Police | Sangkat | CCWC | NGOs | Not sure | Other: |
|--|-------------|---------|------|------|----------|--------|

20.

| | | | | |
|---|-----|----|----------|--------|
| Is there crisis accommodation (shelters) available to women who need to seek shelter for safety? | Yes | No | Not sure | Other: |
|---|-----|----|----------|--------|

21.

| | | | | |
|---|-----|----|----------|--------|
| Do you know what a protection order is and where/ how a woman can get one? | Yes | No | Not sure | Other: |
|---|-----|----|----------|--------|

22.

| | | | | |
|--|---------------------|--------------------|----------------|--------|
| To what extent do you think women are to blame for violence committed against them by their husbands ? | Not at all to blame | Sometimes to blame | Often to blame | Other: |
|--|---------------------|--------------------|----------------|--------|

23.

| | | | | |
|--|---------------------|--------------------|----------------|--------|
| To what extent do you think women are to blame for the violence or harassment committed against them by strangers in the public spaces around their homes? | Not at all to blame | Sometimes to blame | Often to blame | Other: |
|--|---------------------|--------------------|----------------|--------|