In 2016, 79% of the Cambodian population inhabited rural areas, sharing an intimate relationship with land and natural resources. An estimated 700,000 Cambodians have been affected by land conflicts over the last couple of decades. Women in rural areas are particularly vulnerable to land conflict and land evictions.

Of the rural women interviewed by CCHR in 2016...

- 94.5% experienced threats
- 73.1% experienced harassment or intimidation
- 33.6% experienced violence
- 2.1% experienced arrests by authorities
- 24.4% of women have been evicted from their homes
- 98% of the evictions were forced or violent
- 82.9% were not given prior notice of their eviction
- 89.9% were not provided compensation
- 98.2% of women reported struggles with mental illness
- 46.2% considered ending their own life
- 35% harbored suicidal thoughts
- 18.1% had attempted suicide

As a result of land conflict...

- 91.3% of households experienced decreases in household income.
- 5.37% of women migrate to find work elsewhere.
- 44.6% of women reported taking out bank loans to ease financial difficulties as a result of land conflict.

Other Challenges

- The judicial system is often used to harass rural women.
- Relocation sites frequently lack infrastructure and access to essential services such as water, sanitation, and basic health care.

Challenges faced by Woman Human Rights Defenders

"Because they challenge patriarchy and misogyny, women defenders may also face violence and discrimination within their own families and communities, as their advocacy is often considered as less important or in discrepancy with the role they were socially and culturally assigned."

~ Michel Forst, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders

Increases women’s participation in household decision-making

Increases net household incomes

Reduces incidence of domestic violence

Increases expenditures on food and education for children

These findings are based on CCHR’s report “Cambodia’s Women in Land Conflict” published in 2016 which can be found on our website www.cchrcambodia.org