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9C-9T GENDER AND SOCIAL VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT AND ACTION PLAN

PROJECT: PHASE III OF THE JOINT PROJECT ON FLOOD AND DROUGHT MANAGEMENT IN THE 9T-9C SUB-BASIN



TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS	I
LIST OF FIGURES	III
ABBREVIATION	IV
1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Introduction and Background	1
1.2 This Gender and Vulnerability Assessment and Action Plan	2
1.3 Definition of Gender and Vulnerability.....	3
2 POLICY AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK	5
2.1 International Conventions and Safeguards	5
2.2 Mekong Basin Development Strategy (BDS).....	5
2.3 Legal Framework of Cambodia	6
2.4 Legal Framework of Thailand.....	7
2.5 Mekong River Commission Policies	8
2.6 GIZ, KfW and World Bank Policies and Standards on Gender and Vulnerability.....	8
2.6.1 <i>GIZ Gender Strategy and GIZ Guidelines on Gender and Vulnerability</i>	9
2.6.2 <i>Relevant KfW Guidelines on Gender and Vulnerability</i>	9
2.6.3 <i>World Bank Group Gender-Based Violence Policy</i>	10
2.6.4 <i>Relevant World Bank Environmental and Social Framework (ESF)</i>	10
2.7 Gender and Vulnerability Principles for the 9C-9T sub-basin.....	11
3 COMPONENTS OF GENDER AND VULNERABILITY RELEVANT TO THE 9C-9T JOINT PROJECT	
12	
3.1 Introduction	12
3.2 Vulnerability and Floods and Drought Resilience	12
3.2.1 <i>Vulnerability</i>	12
3.2.2 <i>Vulnerable Categories: Disaggregating Data and Information</i>	12
3.2.3 <i>Poverty and Poverty line</i>	13
3.2.4 <i>Health</i>	13
3.2.5 <i>Disabled</i>	14
3.2.6 <i>Elderly</i>	14
3.2.7 <i>Landless</i>	15
3.2.8 <i>Indigenous Groups</i>	15
3.3 Gender for Flood and Drought Management and Resilience.....	16
3.3.1 <i>Gender</i>	16
3.3.2 <i>Non-Binary Gender</i>	16
3.3.3 <i>Gender Disaggregated Data</i>	16
3.3.4 <i>The Role of Women and Men in the Household</i>	17
3.3.5 <i>Female-Male Income Gap</i>	17

4	ASSESSMENT OF THE 9C-9T JOINT PROJECT FLOOD AND DROUGHT MASTER PLAN AND ACTION PLAN	18
4.1	9C-9T Joint Project Flood and Drought Master Plan	18
4.2	9C-9T Joint Project Master Plan Action Plan	18
5	GENDER AND VULNERABILITY ACTION PLAN	26
5.1	Activity 1: enhancing the gender and vulnerability data for the 9C-9T sub-basin	26
5.2	Activity 2: increase focus on causal relationships – gender and vulnerability linked to climate change drivers and impacts	26
5.3	Activity 3: enhancement of community-based flood and drought risk management to increase inclusivity of existing vulnerable people, non-binary and women, as well as men and to prevent increases in vulnerability	27
5.4	Activity 4: generate greater inclusivity of women, non-binary and vulnerable people in addition to men, in flood/drought resilience planning	27
5.5	Activity 5: develop gender and vulnerability inclusiveness in safeguards and consultation processes	27
5.6	Activity 6: prepare a community-based enabling strategy for strengthening resilience of vulnerable households located within high-risk areas	27
5.7	Activity 7: provide community-based flood, drought and climate change training.....	27
5.8	Activity 8: provide training of government line agencies for gender and vulnerability, including strengthening institutional arrangements.....	28
5.9	Activity 9: preparing and implementing monitoring systems including disaggregation by gender and vulnerability.....	28
5.10	Activity 10: extension and cross-border training on successes and failures of interventions in gender and vulnerable-inclusive practices.....	28
5.11	Activity 11: integration of gender and vulnerability into Priority 2 – landscape area interventions	28
5.12	Activity 12: assistance in building capacity in employment and employability of marginalized and vulnerable groups in implementation activities	28
5.13	Activity 13: gender and vulnerability role in financing-based mechanisms	29
6	SCHEDULE	40
7	MONITORING	41
7.1	Monitoring through project performance management/monitoring systems (PPMS) development.....	41
7.2	G-VAP specific recommended monitoring review periods and triggers	42
	ANNEX 1. RELEVANT WORLD BANK ESF SAFEGUARDS	43
	ANNEX 2. REFERENCES	47

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: 9C-9T Sub-basin Boundary and Elevation Zones	2
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LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: Relevant international and national legislation, policies and strategic frameworks in Cambodia and the 9C.....	6
Table 2: Relevant international and national legislation, policies and strategic frameworks in Thailand and the 9T.....	8
Table 3: 9C-9T Master Plan with Gender and Vulnerability elements defined	19
Table 4: Gender and Vulnerability Action Plan	30
Table 5: The project performance management plan structure	42

ABBREVIATION

ADB	Asian Development Bank
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
BDS	Basin Development Strategy
CBD	United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
DSS	Decision Support System
ESF	Environmental and Social Framework
ESS	Environmental and Social Safeguards
EVAW	Action on Elimination of Violence against Women
FPIC	Free, Prior, and Informed Consent
GCCSP	Gender and Climate Change Strategic Plan
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GIZ	German Agency for International Cooperation GmbH
G-VAP	Gender and Vulnerability Action Plan
GVB	Gender-based Violence
H-EQIP	Health Equity and Quality Improvement Project, Cambodia
ILO	International Labour Organization
IWRM	Integrated Water Resources Management
LGBTQ	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MAFF	Cambodian Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
MLMUPC	Cambodian Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction
MOWRAM	Cambodian Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology
MRD	Cambodian Ministry of Rural Development
NPDIP	National Policy on the Development of Indigenous Peoples, Cambodia
NSDP	National Strategic Development Plan
ONWR	Thai Office of National Water Resources
PA	Protected Area
PPMS	Project performance management/monitoring systems
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SEA	South East Asia
TNA	Training Needs Assessment
UHC	Universal Health Coverage
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNDRIP	UN Declaration on the Right of Indigenous Peoples
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UN-OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
USD	United States Dollar
WPS	Women, Peace, and Security

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction and Background

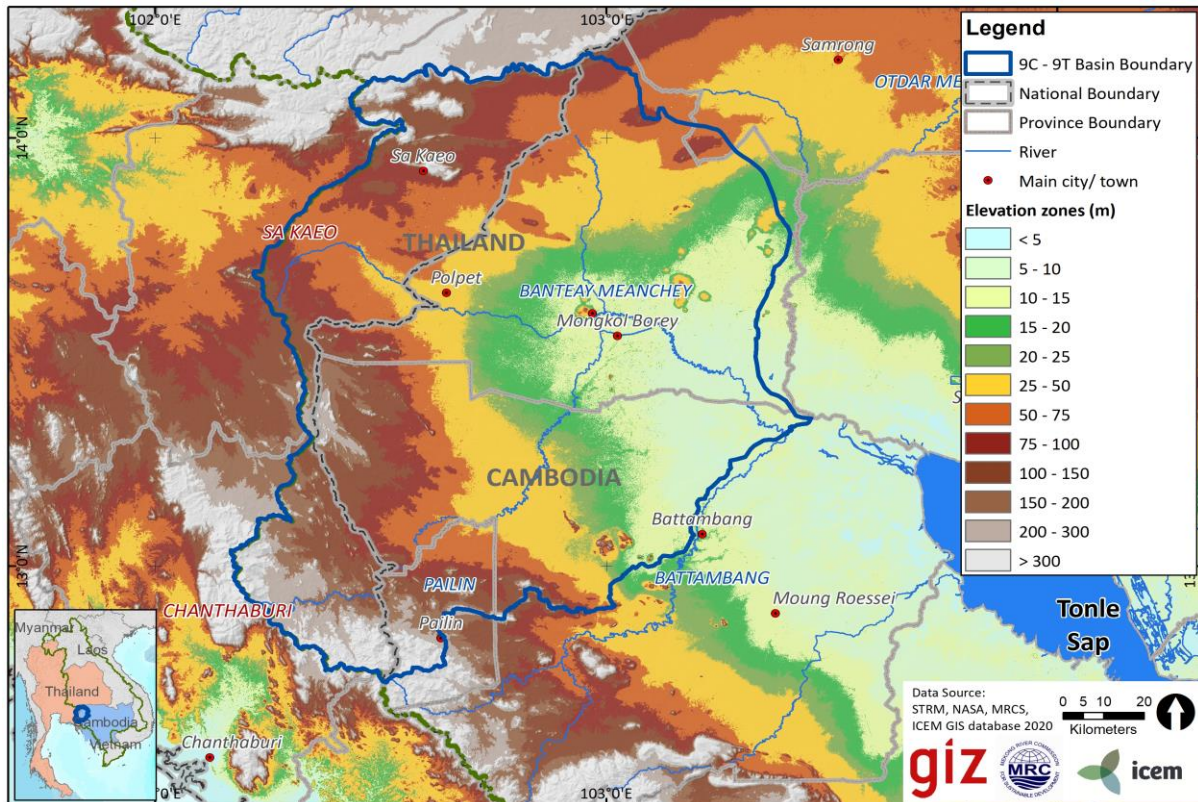
The Governments of the Kingdoms of Cambodia and Thailand initiated a collaborative governance structure for the 9C-9T sub-basin in 2018 under the auspices of the Mekong River Commission, with cross sectoral national working groups established in both countries and a high-level Regional Steering Committee co-chaired by the Cambodian Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology (MOWRAM) and the Thai Office of National Water Resources (ONWR). A 9C-9T Flood and Drought Management Master Plan has been prepared by this collaborative structure to reflect and integrate the work of the two countries to date, with a clear plan for implementation starting from 2022. It provides the strategic framework to scale up investment for flood and drought resilience of the 9C-9T sub-basin in five strategic areas – river basin planning, regional capacity building, urban flood and drought resilience, hydrometeorological and early warning and binational data sharing.¹

The Cambodian area of the 9C-9T comprises the Mongkol Borey river basin and in Thailand it is the Tonle Sap River basin (Figure 1). Both parts of the sub-basin, and hence the two countries, are bound together in their shared management challenges and solutions. Mitigating flood and drought is the overarching objective because of their far-reaching impacts on every aspect of life in the 9C-9T sub-basin, with the threat to become more severe as climate changes take hold. Key drivers of flood and drought have been identified as population growth and associated pressures, largely uncoordinated hard infrastructure development altering hydrological function, and climate change exacerbating watershed degradation. Responding to this challenge requires both countries to work together in breathing ecological health back into this shared sub-basin which has degraded to such an extent that it is impeding economic development and social well-being.

The identified strategic priority areas, outcomes and outputs of the Master Plan and action plan have been designed in response to the current condition of the 9C-9T sub-basin. However, further information on gender and vulnerable populations in the 9C-9T sub-basin is required to enhance and integrate with the Master Plan, Action Plan and 9C-9T Basin Atlas.

¹ From here-on throughout this document, the Mekong River Commission – Joint Project on Flood and Drought Management, will be referred to as the 9C-9T Project.

Figure 1: 9C-9T Sub-basin Boundary and Elevation Zones



1.2 This Gender and Vulnerability Assessment and Action Plan

The Purpose of the Gender and Vulnerability Assessment is to assess how gender and vulnerability considerations may be incorporated into the Joint Project, specifically through its guiding Master Plan and Action Plan. This assessment aims to define how the action plan for the 9C-9T Master Plan implementation can be designed for sensitivity and for the inclusion of women and socially vulnerable populations.

This document presents the result of a brief, high-level Gender and Vulnerability Assessment and an associated, resultant Gender and Vulnerability Action Plan (G-VAP). It consists mainly of qualitative research and information, obtained mostly through publicly available internet reference sources, but with a recommended “Gender and Vulnerability Data Survey” within the 9C-9T sub-basin, to improve the inclusion of women, men, non-binary and vulnerable groups into 9C-9T sub-basin flood and drought management. Information and data analysis was based on the criteria informed by definitions of Gender and Vulnerability of various sources, including also against International finance Institutions and relevant legal frameworks the Cambodian and Thailand Government.

The objectives of the assessment and report are:

- To define Gender and Vulnerability, including identifying their sub-groups and sub-components, relevant to the 9C-9T Joint Project;
- To identify gaps and recommend enhancements to gather additional information on gender and vulnerability issues, to inform the 9C-9T Master Plan, Action Plan and Basin Atlas;
- To undertake a high-level review of the legal framework that relates to Gender and Vulnerability in Cambodia and Thailand;
- To outline the relevant international and national policy frameworks applicable for the 9C-9T Joint Project, including relevant international agencies; and
- To identify a list of key gender and vulnerability-focused actions and activities for implementation in the 9C-9T sub-basin.

This Gender and Social Vulnerability Assessment supports Output 1.2.5 of the Master Plan:

“...prepare and implement a gender and vulnerable communities’ strategy and action plan for mainstreaming within flood and drought resilience sector plans and measures...”

It should be noted that gender and social vulnerability is cross-sectoral, and therefore the achievement of Output 1.2.5, will align with and fulfil actions within the majority of the Master Plan and Action Plan Outputs.

The resultants findings of this assessment are documented in this report, including the development of a Gender and Vulnerability Action Plan (G-VAP), which clearly sets out the next steps for implementation, subsequent to this high-level assessment.

1.3 Definition of Gender and Vulnerability

The Joint Project’s definition and approach to “Gender” and “Vulnerability” must be outlined to support effective planning and implementation. It is important to note that both Cambodia and Thailand have different social, cultural, environmental, and economic factors that need to be considered as part of this.

Gender is a social term, linked to societal expectations, including roles and responsibilities, activities and actions, access and control and decision-making. It refers to both female (women and girls) and male (men and boys). Furthermore, it can also refer those that comfortably self-identify themselves as “male” or as “female” and/or also in the general “non-binary” category and/or identify as (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ))².

Vulnerability refers to marginalized populations and those that are potentially at risk of negative impacts due to minor changes in their development situation. More specifically, it is the characteristics and situation influencing their capacity to anticipate, cope with, mitigate and recover from the impacts of flood and drought risks. Vulnerability may also have differing definitions in Cambodia and Thailand, including:

- a) Gender – especially women, but also includes men and those who choose to identify themselves as male or female;
- b) Male or female headed households (including those without a partner, that have a responsibility for a family, especially looking after children in the family that are 15 years and below (or below the legal working age – generally ranging in countries laws as 15-21 years), and/or single carers that are physically or mentally disabled);
- c) Disabled – people with physical or mental disabilities;
- d) Elderly – those over the age of 65 years, particularly those that are single or supporting a household;
- e) Low income and below poverty line – these definitions should align to country specific levels, including per capita income and/or populations ability to support themselves through livelihoods;
- f) Unemployed and Landless – restrictions would apply, based on the country specific definitions for “unemployment” and actual livelihoods practices. Landless are often marginalized, relying on seasonal and part-time employment for a living and are first to lose employment or income opportunities in difficult times, such as seasons of low yielding, or failed crop production;
- g) Homeless; and
- h) Those living in affected areas, where income, livelihoods and gender-based biases are directly impacted by the frequency and magnitude of floods and droughts.

² Source: The Council of Europe (2022), <https://www.coe.int/en/web/gender-matters/sex-and-gender> . Strasbourg, France.

A common definition of Gender and Vulnerability needs to be transparently and equitably discussed and verified with each country as part of the Master Plan and Action Plan implementation process. Additional elements will be drawn from defined legislation in each country.³

³ Not all Gender and Vulnerability characteristics in such definitions are covered by this assessment, but rather those areas that are identified as representing key influencing factors related to flood and drought resilience.

2 POLICY AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK

An important aspect of the 9C-9T Project, is that the legal framework of the finance recipient/borrower as well as the required donor safeguards policies and standards must be followed. Any gaps identified must be filled with the more stringent measure. This section presents some of the key, gender, vulnerability, flood, drought, climate change and other socially relevant policies, used for Cambodian and Thai legal frameworks.

2.1 International Conventions and Safeguards

The following list presents the main relevant international conventions to which Cambodia and Thailand have ratified or are signatories, influencing their development strategies and legal framework⁴:

1. United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD);
2. United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD);
3. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC);
4. Paris Agreement for Climate Change;
5. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
6. 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
7. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;
8. UN Declaration on the Right of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP);
9. Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN Agreement)⁵;
10. Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction;
11. Ramsar Convention on Wetlands; and
12. Mekong Basin Development Strategy (Mekong region strategy agreement approved by Cambodia, Thailand, Lao PDR and Vietnam).

2.2 Mekong Basin Development Strategy (BDS)

The BDS aims for an economically prosperous, socially just, environmentally sound and climate resilient Mekong River Basin by 2040. While it should be noted that both men and women (gender) of the basin are important for BDS success, it is also essential that vulnerable populations, including women, are involved. Generally vulnerable people are the more marginal of communities and most likely to be least resilient to floods and droughts. They also often take longer to react during, and recover from, an event. Most importantly, concerning the 9C-9T sub-basin is:

“... where people live in harmony with nature, where the remaining environmental assets, especially the important wetlands and natural forests, are protected from further decline. Natural resources are managed sustainably within ecological limits so that ecosystem services including flood and drought protection are maintained for the benefit of the countries’ economies and people. The basin remains one of the world’s most biodiverse places with sufficient habitat and regulatory controls to arrest the decline in species. Watersheds serve an important role as refuge for plants and animals, regulating runoff and groundwater recharge and reducing soil erosion....”

⁴ Source: MRC. 2021. Flood and Drought Master Plan for 9C-9T Sub-basin. Joint Project on Flood and Drought Management. Mekong River Commission. Vientiane, Lao PDR

⁵ Including Ha Noi Declaration on the Enhancement of Welfare and Development of ASEAN Women and Children; the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on Elimination of Violence against Women (EVAW); the ASEAN Declaration on the Gender Responsive Implementation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and SDGs; and the Joint Statement on Promoting Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) in ASEAN.

The key outcomes of the BDS, by the year 2030, relevant to this Gender and Vulnerability Assessment and Plan focused on flood and drought management, include:

- Clause 4.1 There is sufficient flow in the dry season to support livelihood activities and reduced flood peaks in the wet season; and
- Clause 4.2 Basin communities are better prepared for more frequent and severe floods and droughts as a result of climate change.

2.3 Legal Framework of Cambodia

The following table presents an overview of relevant international and national legislation, policies and strategic frameworks for promoting gender equality and women empowerment in Cambodia and the 9C for flood and drought resilience (including for climate change adaptation, agriculture, water governance and natural resource management).⁶

Table 1: Relevant international and national legislation, policies and strategic frameworks in Cambodia and the 9C

Name of Policy/Strategy	Description of policy/strategy and indication of how they promote gender equality and women empowerment
Mainstreaming Gender into Agriculture Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) Investments: Guidance Manual for Policy Makers and Practitioners (2018)	Provides guidance on gender mainstreaming at three strategic levels of implementation, including analyses of gender gaps and needs at a policy level, identifying gender-response and gender balance at a program level, and verifying gender indicators at a recipient level.
The Neary Rattanak V (2019-2024)	Neary Rattanak V is the five-year strategic plan for promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women in Cambodia, including mainstreaming into policies and strategies. Strategy 6 specifically focuses on gender and Climate Change. Its two key objectives (#3 and #8) also aim to (i) promote gender responsiveness and transformative approaches in policy frameworks, strategic plans and national programs on economy and entrepreneurship development, and to promote women’s economic empowerment, and (ii) promote women's empowerment to adapt and build resilience to climate change and gender mainstreaming related to climate change policies, development plans and programs.
The Agriculture Sector Master Plan 2030 (ASMP 2030)	Currently being finalized (with support of the Food and Agriculture Organization) and will modernize agriculture in Cambodia with gender considerations.
Cambodia Climate Change Strategic Plan (CCCSP 2014-2023)	Aims to mainstream gender into existing climate change policies and laws, for support by all government agencies at national and sub-national levels, development partners, NGOs, research and academia and the private sector. Identifies action plans developed by 14 relevant line ministries. Strategic Objective 2: Reduce sectoral, regional, gender vulnerability and health risks to climate change impact; but there is no instruction of budget allocation which results in a big gap in budget implementation.
Gender and Climate Change Strategic Plan (GCCSP) (2013-2023)	Aims to address gender aspects for climate change mitigation and adaptation and environmental sustainability. The strategic plan emphasises gender in the climate strategic framework, goals, objectives, financing strategy and mechanisms. Actively engages line ministries and partners to address gender consideration in adaptation and mitigation of climate change and environment sustainability. It

⁶ Many of these policies are further referenced and reviewed in the State of Gender Equality and Climate Change in Cambodia Report https://www.unclearn.org/wp-content/uploads/library/final-digital_cambodia_report.pdf

Name of Policy/Strategy	Description of policy/strategy and indication of how they promote gender equality and women empowerment
	specifically addresses vulnerable women and other groups, such as children and elderly, through capacity building policy, leadership development, livelihood and green growth-related activities.
Master Plan on Gender and Climate Change (2018-2030)	Envisages gender mainstreaming in climate change adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk reduction initiatives to support an equitable, climate resilient and sustainable society in the short (2018-2019), medium (2019-2023) and long-term (2023-2030).
National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP) (2019-2023)	Aims to strengthen gender mainstreaming mechanisms of sectoral and national programs.
The National Strategic Plan on Green Growth (2013-2030)	Aims to ensure stability and green growth in order to reach “developed country” status. Objective #9 aims to promote good governance on green growth, including mainstreaming gender promotion and women empowerment.
National Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against Women (2019-2023)	Acknowledges the important role of gender in cross-cutting areas. Included proposal of six gender actions for climate change adaptation implementation.
Rectangular Strategy	The strategy aims to promote economic growth, full employment for Cambodian workers, equity, social justice and efficiency towards a 2050 vision. ‘Rectangle 4’ (priority area) focuses on inclusive and sustainable development: 1) Promotion of agricultural and rural development; 2) Strengthening sustainable management of natural and cultural resources; 3) Strengthening management of urbanization; and 4) Ensuring environment sustainability and readiness for climate change.
Gender Mainstreaming Strategy of Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) (2023-2026)	MAFF and all partners contribute to an agriculture sector which is viable, attractive and profitable for women and men, and in which women benefit equitably.
Gender Mainstreaming Strategic Plan in the Ministry of Rural Development (MRD) (2019-2023)	MRD acknowledges the different gender roles men in rural socio-economic and community development.
The ‘White Paper’ of the Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction (MLMUPC), approved in 2012	The White Paper aims to promote gender equality and women empowerment through a separate Chapter on Gender and Land.
MLMUPC’s 5-year Gender Mainstreaming Action Plan 2019-2023	The Action Plan was approved with adequate budget for implementation in the promotion of gender equality within the Ministry.

2.4 Legal Framework of Thailand

The following table presents an overview of relevant international and national legislation, policies and strategic frameworks for promoting gender equality and women empowerment in Thailand and the 9T for flood and drought resilience (including for climate change adaptation, agriculture, water governance and natural resource management).

Table 2: Relevant international and national legislation, policies and strategic frameworks in Thailand and the 9T

Name of Policy/Strategy	Description of policy/strategy and indication of how they promote gender equality and women empowerment
Gender Equality Act B.E. 2558	Aims to provide protection to all people from gender discrimination. It was Thailand’s first legal instrument to specifically mention transgender people. Encourages government agencies to collect sex-disaggregated data for designing gender-sensitive policies and gender responsive monitoring.
Women Development Plan or the Women Development Strategy (2017-2021)	Currently being used as the key guideline for women’s development and gender equality policy in Thailand.
Action Plan to implement the Women Development Strategy (2017-2021)	The action plan focuses on community development, for example, the Vocational Training Program for Women and Families which provides training for the unemployed, educationally disadvantaged, and people at risk of sexual exploitation and human trafficking.

2.5 Mekong River Commission Policies

The MRC has a number of policy framework and standards in place on gender and vulnerability, including:

- The MRC conducted the **review of Gender and Vulnerability related to water resources in the LMB in 2021**. This review aims to identify the key G&V aspects of water, food and energy security in the Mekong Basin. It also describes and maps poor and near-poor water-related resource users and their vulnerabilities. It further identifies existing, and recommends possible, regional and national mechanisms to address G&V inequalities in the four member countries and more widely at the basin scale.
- The MRC is developing the **Handbook for Gender Mainstreaming into MRC Core Functions and Activities** (at the finalization stage). The handbook is aim to assist the MRC to effectively integrate a gender perspective into all aspects of its work, providing the guidance to MRCS and officials from the four core MCs of the MRC, especially technical staff on how to regular integration of Gender and Vulnerability aspects into their work.

2.6 GIZ, KfW and World Bank Policies and Standards on Gender and Vulnerability

The Project is currently financed by the German Government agency BMZ, through GIZ. As a condition of BMZ- GIZ financing, it is essential that this Project complies, at least, with GIZ social and environmental safeguards. While there are several documented environmental and social safeguards policies worldwide, this gender and vulnerability assessment considers two key BMZ financing agency partners’ safeguards requirements for “best practice” implementation (GIZ and KfW). The Gender and vulnerability study also considers KfW and GIZ safeguards, as they provide potential opportunities for the Project to attract additional financing / co-financing source to enable the continuation of initiatives for the 9C/9T Project, as needed.

This Section presents the Gender and vulnerability related policies of GIZ and KfW (including good practice and referenced World Bank ESF and Gender-based violence policies).

2.6.1 GIZ Gender Strategy and GIZ Guidelines on Gender and Vulnerability

In 2019, GIZ published the “GIZ Gender Strategy”⁷. It requires compliance by all management, staff and consultants within all Projects financed or managed through GIZ. The Strategy has been designed in order to comply with the Article 3 Basic Law of the Federal Republic of Germany, including:

- All Persons are equal before the law;
- Men and women shall have equal rights... promoting... the actual implementation of equal rights for women and men and take steps to eliminate disadvantages that now exist; and
- No person shall be favoured or disadvantaged because of sex, parentage, ethnicity, language, homeland and origin, faith, or religious or political opinions. No person shall be disfavoured because of disability.

In order to address gender requirements on GIZ projects and operations, the GIZ Gender Strategy includes the following:

- **Political will and accountability** – promoting gender equality and gender strategy within areas of management responsibility;
- **Corporate culture** – ensuring gender responsible patterns of behaviour at all levels of GIZ related works;
- **Gender competence** – ensuring skills and capacity and advocacy for application of gender equality and elimination of gender-based disadvantages and discrimination;
- **Process adjustment** – implementing gender-sensitive and gender differentiated design in all sections, including in head office and field, with positive results and monitoring; and
- **Equal opportunities** - for all employees and members of the workforce, irrespective of their gender, sexual orientation and gender identity.

While the GIZ’ Gender strategy focusses more on actions of management, employees and consultants working within its project structures, GIZ also provides a brief guideline to reflect its policy on gender and vulnerability considerations and participation in its Projects. The “GIZ Safeguards + Gender Management System” has been developed to recognise social sustainability from the beginning to end of a project. The system highlights the importance of environmental, social and specifically gender in its projects. In terms of gender and vulnerability, a key focus includes employment and gender equality along with social and environmental impacts, inclusive of climate change, caused by the project and how climate change is impacting on projects financed through GIZ.

2.6.2 Relevant KfW Guidelines on Gender and Vulnerability

The key safeguard policy guideline of KfW is the “Sustainability Guideline Assessment and Management of Environmental, Social and Climate Aspects: Principles and Procedures (2022)”⁸. This document recognizes that the World Bank “Environmental and Social Framework (ESF): Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS)” in addition to national legal framework, shall be complied.

KfW’s reference to gender mostly covers gender equality and family planning. However, in relation to the 9C-9T Joint Project, the policy guideline does make references to vulnerability as follows:

- To consider probable and foreseeable impacts of climate change including utilising the potential to adapt to climate change. In this context climate change is understood as climate variability and long-term climate change;

⁷ Information is extracted and/or paraphrased from the Source: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH “GIZ Gender Strategy ‘Gender reloaded: Vision needs Attitude – Attitude meets Action’” Published by GIZ, January 2019,

⁸ Referenced by KfW in ‘Sustainability Guideline Assessment and Management of Environmental, Social and Climate Aspects: Principles and Procedures (28 February 2022)’ and representing good international industry practice.

- To avoid adverse impacts on the living conditions of communities, in particular indigenous peoples, and other vulnerable groups, as well as to ensure the rights, living conditions and values of indigenous peoples;
- To avoid and minimise involuntary resettlement and forced eviction of people and their living space as well as to mitigate adverse social and economic impacts through changes in land use by reinstating the previous living conditions of the affected population;
- To ensure and support occupational health and safety as well as health protection in the workplace;
- To condemn forced labour and child labour, ban discrimination in respect of employment and occupation, and support the freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining;
- To avoid all forms of discrimination;
- To avoid negatively influencing existing conflict dynamics;
- To protect and preserve cultural heritage; and
- To support the executing agency in the management and monitoring of possible adverse environmental, social and climate impacts and risks associated with the implementation of the Financial Cooperation (FC)-measure.

2.6.3 World Bank Group Gender-Based Violence Policy

The World Bank requires full compliance with the policy document on Gender-based Violence (GBV) on their Projects, to the extent of non-compliance being a sanctionable offence for staff of WB, consultants, and borrowers. KfW does not necessarily enforce such a measure for most of its financed Projects, but strongly advises all stakeholders comply.

There are five main areas of Gender-based violence that are covered by the World Bank GBV policy and integrated within the World Bank Environmental and Social Framework (ESF). They also represent several areas of vulnerability:

- **Sexual Exploitation:** Any actual or attempted abuse of a position of vulnerability, differential power, or trust, for sexual purposes, including, but not limited to, profiting monetarily, socially or politically from the sexual exploitation of another;
- **Sexual Abuse** - Actual or threatened physical intrusion of a sexual nature, whether by force or under unequal or coercive conditions;
- **Workplace Sexual Harassment:** Any unwelcome sexual advance, request for sexual favour, verbal or physical conduct or gesture of a sexual nature, or any other behaviour of a sexual nature that might reasonably be expected or be perceived to cause offense or humiliation to another, when such conduct interferes with work, is made a condition of employment or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive work environment;
- **Human Trafficking:** Sexual Slavery, Coerced transactional sex, illegal transnational movement;
- **Non-Sexual Exploitation and Abuse:** Physical Assault, psychological or physical abuse, denial of resources, opportunities or services, Child labour and forced labour; and
- **Gender equity, especially in the workplace:** equal payment and conditions for equally qualified men and women conducting the same activities.

2.6.4 Relevant World Bank Environmental and Social Framework (ESF)

In addition to the separate GBV policy, the World Bank ESF has 10 sets of Environmental and Social Standards (ESS) that must be complied on KfW Projects. Not all of them have a direct connection to vulnerability and/or Gender. However, Annex 1 provides a description of the relevant ESS's to the 9C-9T Joint Project with regards to gender and vulnerable populations. The World Bank ESF Standards that are directly related to gender and vulnerability are as follows:

- Environmental and Social Standards 1 – Assessment and management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts;

- Environmental and Social Standards 2 – Labour and Working Conditions;
- Environmental and Social Standards 4 – Community Health and Safety;
- Environmental and Social Standards 5 – Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land use and Involuntary Resettlement;
- Environmental and Social Standards 7 – Indigenous Peoples;
- Environmental and Social Standards 8 – Cultural Heritage; and
- Environmental and Social Standards 10 – Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure.

2.7 Gender and Vulnerability Principles for the 9C-9T sub-basin

Based on the above international, regional and national legal framework of Cambodia and Thailand, as well as GIZ, KfW and World Bank relevant safeguards, a set of gender and vulnerability principles for the 9C-9T sub-basin have been prepared and are presented below. The following principles are therefore recommended during the 9C-9T Master Plan implementation period:

- i. All activities of the 9C-9T Master Plan, Action Plan and Basin Atlas implementation will fully incorporate the requirements as set out in this Gender and Vulnerability Assessment and Action Plan, without prejudice or discrimination;
- ii. All activities of the 9C-9T Master Plan, Action Plan and Basin Atlas will include gender disaggregated data collection. Gender is to be considered as women, men, girls, boys and non-binary (i.e. the gender category to which they identify themselves, as non-specific gender categories);
- iii. All activities of the 9C-9T Master Plan, Action Plan and Basin Atlas will also be disaggregated by vulnerability, as defined in, but not limited to, Section 1 and 3 of this assessment;
- iv. All project activities will prohibit all forms of gender and vulnerability discrimination. Any community member within, and external to, the project area and not legally recognised, will not be prevented from project participation (e.g. by race, ethnicity, gender, citizenship, age);
- v. Notwithstanding point (iv), the project will use forms of participation that are inclusive of vulnerable groups and all forms of gender types. This will include not only comprise having combined participation, but also activities and participation disaggregated into various gender and/or vulnerable groups, in order to allow full and effective inclusiveness, as necessary;
- vi. Activities of the Project will also recognise and support populations that do not yet correspond to a vulnerability category, but whose resilience to cope with minor or major impacts could lead them into a spiral of vulnerability;
- vii. The project will be aware of the potential additional burden placed on each gender and vulnerable grouping by the Project, especially of women and poor; and
- viii. Notwithstanding the above points (i) to (vii) and in compliance with German laws and GIZ Gender strategy, "no person shall be favoured or disadvantaged because of sex, parentage, ethnicity, language, homeland and origin, faith, or religious or political opinions. No person shall be disfavoured because of disability".

3 COMPONENTS OF GENDER AND VULNERABILITY RELEVANT TO THE 9C-9T JOINT PROJECT

3.1 Introduction

To date, the 9C-9T Flood and Drought Master Plan, Action Plan and Basin Atlas has not reviewed and incorporated significant detail related to the inclusion of women and vulnerable persons into the project implementation. It is clear that these populations are most likely to be most impacted by, and least resilient to, flood and drought. This section of the assessment, uses mostly qualitative information, to address the importance of selected components of gender and vulnerability, that should be considered for inclusion in implementing the 9C-9T Flood and Drought Management Project. The information provided mostly based on publicly available materials.⁹

3.2 Vulnerability and Floods and Drought Resilience

3.2.1 Vulnerability

As mentioned in Section 1.2, vulnerability refers to potentially marginalized populations and those that are at higher risk of negative impacts due to minor changes in their development situation. Within the frame of the 9C-9T Joint Project, the focus is on populations at risk of negative impacts due to floods and droughts that are increasing in intensity and frequency.

Vulnerable groups are highly valuable sources of information about the nature of floods/droughts and impacts, including historical information about the project area and coping mechanisms. These might be considered for demonstration or upscaling through the Project, thereby improving flood and drought resilience of vulnerable households.

Populations that are generally vulnerable to floods and/or droughts are those of least resilience to cope with, or recover from, their impacts. That is, those people or community members:

- Having special needs or requiring assistance to prepare for and act during an event;
- With a lower ability, or need a longer time period, to recover from an event;
- At risk of falling into a defined vulnerable situation due to events becoming more extreme and frequent; and
- Are often excluded, or least included, in preparedness and risk management activities.

This section is designed to identify those key categories of populations known to be vulnerable, having least resilience, to floods and droughts. Other Vulnerable Categories may be identified, and recorded alongside other vulnerable group categories, as identified in the Project area.

3.2.2 Vulnerable Categories: Disaggregating Data and Information

The 9C-9T Flood and Drought Master Plan, Action Plan and Basin Atlas has to date not incorporated detailed elements or approaches for the inclusion of gender and vulnerable groups, including identifying some of the key categories of populations known to be vulnerable, or having least resilience, to floods and droughts. This is a significant gap, in being able to consult with vulnerable groups and ensure their inclusion in Project activities are assured and successes/failures of actions are measurable through monitoring.

It is recommended that as part of the G-VAP, project data collected in the 9C-9T sub-basin should be disaggregated into vulnerable categories. These should include, but not necessarily limited to, those outlined in Sections 3.2.3 to 3.2.8 and Section 3.3 (also often categorized as vulnerable groups).

⁹ Note that more detailed statistical collection, including relevant site social surveys, have been included as part of the “Gender and Vulnerability Action Plan” (G-VAP). The G-VAP will be attached to the main 9C-9T Flood and Drought Management Project Master Plan and Associate Action Plan for implementation.

3.2.3 Poverty and Poverty line

Poverty and the poverty line are measured in different ways in each country and internationally, dependent upon the stakeholders and authorities involved. Governments generally use a locally determined income level as an officially defined poverty line, whilst donors for many years used an income level of USD 2.15 per capita per day, or 4,500 Kilocalories per capita per days, as an acceptable poverty line measure (World Bank, 2022¹⁰).

A multi-dimensional poverty definition of the United Nations recognizes aspects of health (child mortality and food intake), education (years of schooling and enrolment) and standard of living (water, sanitation and energy) and assets ownership.

- **Thailand** – The overall poverty level in Thailand has steadily increased, from 7.2% (2015) to over 9.8% (in 2018). However, Asian Development Bank (ADB) statistics show that 6.8% of the population lived under the national poverty line, earning THB 2,601 per person per month and with 0.1% of employable adults (over 15) living on less than US\$ 2.15 per person per day (2022). This is expected to have worsened, with the COVID-19 pandemic also contributing to this figure, and with tourism and business being reduced and hardest hit in 2021-2022.
- **Cambodia** – The Cambodia population living below the nationally defined poverty line was 17.8% (2019), with 9.8% of employable adults (over 15) living on less than US\$ 2.15 per person per day (2021). Like Thailand, this may have worsened with the COVID-19 pandemic. The Cambodia Ministry of Planning and Provincial Departments of Planning, with assistance of BMZ, GIZ and Australian Aid, has implemented a local level “ID Poor Program”, in which multi-dimensional data of a household identifies them for special assistance as a household in poverty¹¹.

Poverty is factor of vulnerability that must be mainstreamed into the Joint Project through the G-VAP implementation, with the aim of improving flood and drought resilience of those who cannot avoid or recover from longer, medium or short-term flood/drought impacts. A recommendation in the G-VAP is to prepare community level management plans that cover those living near or below the poverty line, in order to reduce impacts and improve abilities for more rapid recovery.

3.2.4 Health

Health is often only considered as a part of a post-response to a hazard, even when people fall ill due to post-hazard environment (e.g. cholera, typhoid or dengue fever) after wet, flood events. The effects of drought on health include nutritional and food availability, dust causing breathing issues and stomach illness and dehydration in warmer dry conditions.

It is important to consider for the capacities and availability of health facilities to support both existing demands for services, and also to provide access to healthcare to those affected by the floods and droughts. Consideration must also be given to preparedness and resilience of those in ill health as they may have lower capacity to avoid flood/drought impacts, as well as to recover from such impacts.

Thailand achieved Universal Health Coverage in 2002 and all citizens are covered by the country’s publicly-run health schemes. They provide relatively comprehensive benefits coverage; however, significant gaps remain in non-medical costs and social support systems to facilitate access to and utilization of health care services, in particular for vulnerable people, including poor, elderly individuals in rural areas.¹²

In Cambodia, the country is climbing steadily toward obtaining UHC, in the face of the double burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases.¹³ The Country’s Health Equity and Quality

¹⁰ Source: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/factsheet/2022/05/02/fact-sheet-an-adjustment-to-global-poverty-lines>

¹¹ Source: <https://mop.idpoor.gov.kh/>

¹² Source: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/thailand/publication/closing-the-health-gaps-for-the-elderly-in-thailand>

¹³ Source: <https://blogs.worldbank.org/health/cambodia-progressing-toward-universal-health-coverage>

Improvement Project (H-EQIP) targets health equity and quality improvement, designed in part for marginalized groups.

As part of the G-VAP, it is recommended that community level management plans are prepared that cover those with chronic, serious health conditions, in order to reduce flood and drought impacts and improve abilities for more rapid recovery.

3.2.5 Disabled

Disabilities may be considered as either mental or physical. The extent of a disability will affect requirements for flood and drought management assistance. In Thailand the percentage of those with a disability ranges up to 3%¹⁴, while Cambodia is estimated at 15%¹⁵. In Thailand and Cambodia it is generally cultural practice for family members to care for disabled relatives. However, satisfactory care will depend on family capacity, including household income to support disabled care requirement.

Both in Thailand and Cambodia, there are laws which support inclusiveness of women and men with disabilities. However, the International Labour Organization (ILO) reports that in Cambodia there is a lack of training and employment opportunities. In Thailand, laws protect discrimination, but significantly more men than women of working age with disabilities are in employment.

People with disabilities need to be considered in flood and drought planning and management activities. This includes:

- Inclusion and reference to those with disabilities within relevant sub-basin planning documents, mechanisms and decisions;
- Employing disabled for appropriate Early Warning System activities and nature-based interventions under the project, such as conducting measurements of rainfall and flood levels or the establishment of tree nurseries in the sub-basin; and
- Provision of enhanced systems and services catering for the disabled during flood/drought events, whom would be much slower in reacting to floods/droughts.

As part of the G-VAP, it is recommended that community level management plans are prepared that cover mentally and physically disabled persons, in order to reduce impacts and improve abilities for more rapid recovery from such events.

3.2.6 Elderly

Thailand has a rapidly aging (defined as over 60 years old) population, which is forecasted to reach 25% in 2040.¹⁶ In Cambodia, the elderly population represents 7.6% of the population, which is forecast to reach over 16.4% by 2050¹⁷. In Thailand and Cambodia, it is generally cultural practice for elderly family members to be cared for by family members, although it is important to note that this tradition is becoming less prevalent. Generally, the level of care for elderly family members depends on family capacity, including household income.

Elderly is classified as a vulnerable group because they may present health issues and/or disabilities, or are required to care for younger family members while parents are working. The elderly may be considered in preparedness, response, and recovery activities. This includes:

- Inclusion and reference to the elderly within relevant sub-basin planning documents, mechanisms and decisions;

¹⁴ Source: National Association of the Deaf in Thailand (NATD), 2019. <https://nadt.or.th/en/stat61.html>

¹⁵ Source: The Borgan Project (2020) "Disability and Poverty in Cambodia". <https://borgenproject.org/disability-and-poverty-in-cambodia/>

¹⁶ Source: <https://ageingasia.org/ageing-population-thailand/>

¹⁷ Source: <https://ageingasia.org/ageing-population-cambodia/>

- Employing elderly for appropriate Early Warning System activities and nature-based interventions under the project, such as conducting measurements of rainfall and flood levels or the establishment of tree nurseries in the sub-basin;
- Consulting with elderly about historical river basin management approaches; and
- Provision of enhanced systems and services catering for the elderly and their families during flood/drought events.

3.2.7 Landless

Landless are a potential high-risk group in the 9C-9T sub-basin. Landless are often marginalized, relying on seasonal and part-time employment for a living. Landless can be involved in the project to work with nature-based basin management interventions, as well as taking key roles in community-based flood and drought risk management activities.

Landless are typically the first economically affected by drought or flood impacts. For example, the gradual loss or singular event destruction of cropland resulting in temporary or seasonal labor not being required. Income fluctuations associated with seasonal and part-time employment opportunities reduce the capacity of landless individuals to cope and recover from flood/drought impacts. These impacts may also force landless to take income generation opportunities outside the sub-basin area, exposing them to human trafficking risks.

3.2.8 Indigenous Groups

There is no official definition of “indigenous groups” in Cambodia, although the country is thought to have up to 24 Indigenous groups, along with over 455 indigenous communities, which constitutes 3% of the population¹⁸. The country’s National Policy on the Development of Indigenous Peoples (NPDIP) outlines national legislation and approaches on indigenous people.

In Thailand, there are at least 16 Indigenous and minority groups, as identified by the Council of Indigenous Peoples in Thailand.¹⁹ It is unclear if there remain any well-defined indigenous groups in the three 9C-9T sub-basin provinces in Cambodia. It is understood there may be an indigenous grouping in Chanthaburi Province, Thailand, although it is unclear if their traditional area includes any part of the Project sub-basin.

The World Bank ESF ESS-7 recognize Indigenous People has having:

“identities and aspirations that are distinct from mainstream groups in national societies and often are disadvantaged by traditional models of development. They may be economically marginalized and vulnerable... [having their] economic, social, and legal status frequently limits their capacity to defend their rights to, and interests in, land, territories and natural and cultural resources, and may restrict their ability to participate in and benefit from development projects. In many cases, they do not receive equitable access to project benefits, or benefits are not devised or delivered in a form that is culturally appropriate, and they may not always be adequately consulted about the design or implementation of projects that would profoundly affect their lives or communities.”

It is important that Indigenous Peoples within the 9C-9T sub-basin, including indigenous groups and communities, are provided an opportunity to participate in Joint Project activities. This must ensure that their traditions, culture, livelihoods and unique connections to the area are not disrupted or threatened. Indigenous people may provide assistance in developing flood and drought resilient approaches, where their historic and local knowledge and experiences in the sub-basin can provide insights for the Joint Project.

¹⁸ Source: <https://www.iwgia.org/en/cambodia.html>

¹⁹ Source: <https://cipt.thaiportal.info/>

3.3 Gender for Flood and Drought Management and Resilience

3.3.1 Gender

Under the 9C-9T Joint Project, Gender is defined as both female (women) and male (men). Furthermore, it can also refer those that identify themselves as “male” or as “female” and/or also in the general “non-binary” category - including identifying as LGBTQ (refer to Section 1.2 and 1.3 above).

Gender, in some cases and in terms of flood and drought resilience, may be referred to as a sub-set of vulnerability, or as a stand-alone issue. The term “gender” is often focused on women and girls. However, gender is inclusive of the participation of women, men, non-binary and children. Gender-related issues, that may arise during the Joint Project implementation, should be anticipated and considered in the design and operations phase. This may include the participation of women directly and indirectly in the project implementation.

The ensuing section evaluates the Project on gender equity and recommends specific gender integration and/or mitigation measures.

3.3.2 Non-Binary Gender

According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN-OCHA), Cambodia currently does not have specific legislation that allows for non-binary orientation, to counter acts against them or criminalization of identification as LGBTQ. However, there is a “stigma” attached to those identifying as non-binary or LGBTQ. Although not legally recognized under law, these are several development programs in which the RGT has included non-binary participation.

Thailand does have legislation that positively accepts those who identify themselves as “non-binary”. In a high percentage of cases, it is understood that households do not discriminate against relatives that identify as non-binary, although same-sex marriage is not legal.

It can therefore be inferred that treatment of non-binary people in communities in the 9C-9T sub-basin is varied. It is important to note the following²⁰:

- You don’t have to understand what it means for someone to be non-binary to respect them;
- Use the name a person asks you to use;
- Try not to make any assumptions about people’s gender;
- If you’re not sure what pronouns someone uses, ask;
- Advocate for non-binary friendly policies; and
- Understand that, for many non-binary people, figuring out which bathroom to use can be challenging.

In implementing the G-VAP, there will be no discrimination against non-binary groups participating in activities.

3.3.3 Gender Disaggregated Data

The 9C-9T Flood and Drought Master Plan and Action Plan both encourage the inclusion of men, women and vulnerable groups, each playing different household roles. The disaggregation of gender-based data helps to identify uniquely differing impacts, requiring different mitigation measures under the Project.

G-VAP Activity 1 – identifies the need for a “Gender and Vulnerability survey” to be conducted within the 9C-9T project area, with data disaggregated by gender and vulnerability categories. Disaggregated data collection approaches, including consultation with women only or men only groups, are also anticipated.

²⁰ Source: National Center for Transgender Equality, 2022. <https://transequality.org>

3.3.4 The Role of Women and Men in the Household

The Harvard Analytical Framework, also known as the Gender Roles Framework, was one of the earliest efforts to systematize attention to both women and men and their different positions in society. It is based upon the position that allocating resources to women as well as men in development efforts makes economic sense and will make development itself more efficient. Data is collected at the individual and household level and adapts well to agricultural and other rural production systems. Data is collected on men's and women's activities which are identified as either 'reproductive' or 'productive' types. This is then considered according to how those activities reflect access to and control over income and resources, thereby highlighting the incentives and constraints under which men and women work. This supports the anticipation of how projects will impact their productive and reproductive activities, as well as the responsibilities of other household members.

There are several factors to be considered under the category of male/female roles:

- Male to female distribution of household income;
- Who is responsible for distributing that income among the household and livelihood activities (not necessarily the main household earner);
- Household activities and work– typically females control household activities, such as health, food and water collection.

In supplementing the 9C-9T Flood and Drought Management Project Master Plan, Action Plan and Basin Atlas, it is recommended to integrate household roles and dynamics in the G-VAP, through the gender and vulnerability survey.

3.3.5 Female-Male Income Gap

In Thailand the income earning gap was 2.5%, increasing to 10.94% in 2020. Further statistics from 2020 show that the average number of unpaid work hours per day is 3.2 for women and 0.9 for men.²¹ The average gender wage gap in Cambodia was reported as being 19% lower for women than men with the same qualifications and experience to conduct the same activities (UNDP, 2021).

It is recommended that women be equally considered for income generation wherever possible. Gender discrimination often occurs when hiring staff for projects, from field-based, to office work, and up to management levels. This is particularly the case, when males don't recognize that women are capable of the doing work tasks (ILO 2009³⁸). As per World Bank Group requirements, there should be equal work opportunities for men and women, regardless of gender, race or religion.

²¹ Source: <https://borgenproject.org/feminization-of-poverty-in-thailand/>

4 ASSESSMENT OF THE 9C-9T JOINT PROJECT FLOOD AND DROUGHT MASTER PLAN AND ACTION PLAN²²

This 9C-9T Gender and Vulnerability Assessment and Action Plan will be attached to the main 9C-9T Action plan which is designed to as a masterplan implementation document. This section presents a review of salient information from the 9C-9T Master Plan and Action Plan, in relation to gender and vulnerability, to inform a 9C-9T Gender and Vulnerability Assessment and Action Plan.

4.1 9C-9T Joint Project Flood and Drought Master Plan

The 9C-9T Master Plan, focusing on flood and drought management in the 9C-9T sub-basin, presents a 20-year strategic vision. The plan provides the framework for resource mobilization and implementation of activities by Cambodia and Thailand to strengthen resilience to flood and drought within their shared sub-basin. It was jointly approved by both governments in late 2021.

Through cooperative discussions between the two countries, six common strategic development priorities in both countries were identified, from which the Master Plan was built. These six common strategic national priority areas are distilled as follows are important for the integration of Gender and Vulnerability related interventions:

1. Management of water for consumption;
2. Building water security in agriculture and industry, including irrigation;
3. Management of floods and drought;
4. Management of water quality and the conservation of water resources;
5. Restoring watersheds and degraded forests for sustainable water; and
6. Building effective management, administration, and information systems.

The strategic priorities adopted by the Joint Project Regional Steering Committee, are also key intended outcomes of the 9C-9T Master Plan and Action Plan, as well as the Gender and Vulnerability Action Plan (refer to G-VAP, Section 5 below). They are also in accordance with the Mekong BDS:

1. Implement a river basin master plan;
2. Manage urban and rural flood and drought;
3. Exchange information and knowledge;
4. Strengthen hydromet network and flood and drought warning; and
5. Build regional capacity.

4.2 9C-9T Joint Project Master Plan Action Plan

Based on each of the key Outcomes and Outputs outlined in the Master Plan, a 15-year Action Plan was developed and approved by Cambodia and Thailand, to be reviewed after 5-years of implementation. The 9C-9T Action Plan outlines a set of actions, timelines and budgetary estimates in order to achieve and implement the Master Plan outputs.

There are a number of critical aspects of the Master Plan relevant to gender and vulnerability that have not been incorporated to date. The integration of these elements into the Master Plan and Action Plan will enhance the benefits brought about through the 9c-9T Joint Project. A review of the Master Plan in this regard, including suggestions for integrating gender and vulnerability aspects, is provided in Table 3. This analysis has contributed to the development of the Gender Assessment and Action Plan outlined in later sections.

²² Source: MRC. 2021. Flood and Drought Master Plan for 9C-9T Sub-basin. Joint Project on Flood and Drought Management. Mekong River Commission. Vientiane, Lao PDR.

Table 3: 9C-9T Master Plan with Gender and Vulnerability elements defined

Outcomes	Outputs	Incorporating Gender and Vulnerability
Focal Point (Priority) 1: Review, revise and implement a 9C-9T river basin master plan		
Outcome 1.1: Aligned legal frameworks and practice for transboundary water resource management to support resilience to flood and drought	Output 1.1.3: Review and revise legal and administrative frameworks for spatial planning and zoning with safeguards on a catchment basis and ensure associated tools and capacities are in place	Inclusion of safeguards that do not negatively impact vulnerable and women, but will positively benefit, recognize and fully incorporate gender and vulnerability aspects. This includes in improved legal protection, tools and capacity building operations for catchment-based spatial planning and zoning It is generally good practice is to evaluate management plans at all levels (community, district, Provincial, National) on an annual basis, in the case of major changes to landscape (economically, politically, institutionally, and environmentally) and/or impacts
	Output 1.1.4: Review and revise legal and administrative frameworks for environmental impact assessment systems to ensure cumulative assessments of many developments (small and large scale) within a catchment are conducted	Legal and administrative frameworks for environmental impact assessments incorporate disaggregation of gender and vulnerability among social and environmental baselines, impacts identification and mitigations measures of project interventions. This includes in the planning, design, implementation/construction, operation (post-project –including direct, cumulative, induced and residual impacts) and monitoring
Outcome 1.2: Strengthened mechanisms to improve IWRM planning and integrated basin management for flood and drought	Output 1.2.1: Conduct a transboundary 9C-9T river basin climate change vulnerability assessment and adaptation planning as an input to the river basin planning process and plan	There are 2 categories of gender and vulnerability to consider, as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communities and wider populations are experiencing disproportionately increased vulnerability to climate change. Increases in climate change impacts need to be addressed, by increasing community resilience in the 9C-9T sub-basin • As a subset of a river basin community and wider populations, there are a specific set of marginal livelihoods and vulnerable groups, such as elderly, chronically ill and disabled, LGBTQ, poor, non-citizen and landless. The availability of services to assist resilience building to floods and droughts in the face of increasing climate change, needs to also be addressed
	Output 1.2.4: Carry out comprehensive and transparent cumulative impact assessment of planned infrastructure in the 9C-9T basin such as weirs, ponds, wells, reservoirs and dams, and irrigation systems including pumping systems (for example listed infrastructure in the Thai National Water Resource Master Plan and MOWRAM sector development master plan)	
	Output 1.2.5: Prepare and implement a gender and vulnerable communities’ strategy and action plan for mainstreaming within flood and drought resilience sector plans and measures	Part of this output includes the development, stakeholder concurrence and implementation of this Gender and vulnerability Assessment and Action Plan document Community-based flood and drought management, that recognizes the roles, responsibilities and needs of women and men; disabled, elderly; poor and other vulnerable population. This needs to account for inclusive planning, preparedness and management and post-disaster response/recovery for flood and drought resilience

Outcomes	Outputs	Incorporating Gender and Vulnerability
	Output 1.2.6: Review, prepare and adopt harmonized sector action plans for 9C and 9T sub-basin areas to build flood and drought resilience (i.e. plans by relevant national government sector agencies responsible for water management, irrigation, forestry and agriculture, other infrastructure development and environmental management for example)	Sector plans should account for gender sensitivities and vulnerable groups. They should also incorporate mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of such plans (assumed as community-based risk management plans, which include strengthening resilience of vulnerable groups to prepare, cope with and recover more rapidly from droughts and floods, using local knowledge of natural resources, changes in the climate, and the introduction of new, best practices approaches to managing risk). Any learnings or outcomes associated with monitoring and evaluating the implementation of local risk management plans is expected to identify and resolve any gaps and other recognized issues that negatively affect women, men and vulnerable populations’ resilience to floods/droughts
Outcome 1.3: Sustainable financing of ecosystem-based adaptation measures for flood and drought resilience	Output 1.3.1: Conduct economic valuation of ecosystem services to assess benefits of climate-sensitive, gender-sensitive, ecosystem-based adaptation for flood and drought resilience measures	Economic valuation of ecosystem services should account for gender sensitivities and vulnerable groups. For example, marginal and vulnerable populations are often more reliant on natural resource-based livelihoods and income generation activity. This also includes agricultural-based incomes, which are seasonally based, and which are highly sensitive to flood and droughts. Any learnings or outcomes associated with monitoring and evaluating the implementation of economic valuation studies is expected to identify and resolve any gaps and other recognized issues that negatively affect women, men and vulnerable populations’ resilience to floods/droughts
Focal Area 2: Manage urban and rural flood and drought to reduce risk		
Outcome 2.1: Strengthened urban flood and drought resilience through innovative climate-sensitive and ecosystem-based planning tools and adaptation interventions	Output 2.1.1: Conduct climate change vulnerability assessments and adaptation planning leading to adaptation plans for two target towns (one either side of the border)	<p>There are 2 categories of vulnerability as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communities and wider populations are experiencing disproportionately increased vulnerability to climate change. Increases in climate change impacts in urban areas for these communities need to be addressed • As a subset of a river basin community and wider populations, there are a specific set of marginal livelihoods and vulnerable groups, such as elderly, chronically ill and disabled, LGBTQ, poor, non-citizen and landless. Climate change impacts on the availability of services for these vulnerable groups, to assist their resilience to flood and drought events, need to be addressed
	Output 2.1.2: Prepare local flood and drought risk management plans for two target transboundary urban areas either side of the Cambodia-Thailand border and ensure consistency with relevant sector master plans	Local flood and drought risk management plans should account for gender sensitivities and vulnerable groups. They should also incorporate mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of such local plans (assumed as community-based risk management plans). Any learnings or outcomes associated with monitoring and evaluating the implementation of local risk management

Outcomes	Outputs	Incorporating Gender and Vulnerability
	<p>Output 2.1.3: Review and revise urban spatial zoning and safeguards, and enforcement mechanisms to improve resilience to flood and drought with a focus on urban waterways, urban canopy cover and greening measures, and Identification of floodway potential and flood zoning in two towns (one in each country)</p>	<p>plans is expected to identify and resolve any gaps and other recognized issues that negatively affect women, men and vulnerable populations’ resilience to floods/droughts</p> <p>Urban spatial zoning, safeguards and enforcement measures in flood/drought areas are critical where there are social services for vulnerable and higher concentrations of vulnerable populations, (often on the fringes of urban areas). All members of the community, including those identified or identifying themselves as (but not limited to): vulnerable, women, men and non-binary, should be encouraged to contribute to the decision-making process</p> <p>The design of urban plans and developments around resilient housing and livelihoods should be undertaken in hazard-prone areas. It would be difficult to implement relocation programs for vulnerable groups, both culturally and financially. Therefore, other non-resettlement methods would need to be sought to mitigate this issue</p>
<p>Outcome 2.2: Strengthened rural flood and drought resilience through ecosystem-based planning tools and adaptation interventions</p>	<p>Output 2.2.1: Develop and implement rural landscape rehabilitation measures including agro-forestry activities and changes to agricultural practices through plant diversification and intercropping, innovative irrigation measures to conserve water and apply demand side management approaches, less tillage, and improvements to soil water holding capacity and carbon sequestration</p> <p>Output 2.2.2: Develop spatial zoning and safeguards across rural landscapes, especially relating to existing and new infrastructure, and implement by installing sediment traps, conducting dredging to maintain capacity, maintenance to prevent encroachment of agriculture into reservoir banks, and establishing vegetated buffers along drainage and transport corridors and along allotment boundaries</p>	<p>An approach of prioritizing the inclusion of women, men and vulnerable groups should be encouraged to contribute to rehabilitation and restoration measures, including for agricultural and irrigation related activities. This covers, women, elderly, chronically ill and disabled, LGBTQ, poor and landless. Additionally, consideration for developing measures that allow more access(ability) and opportunities in restoration areas</p> <p>It is often found that the most vulnerable groups, and women are more likely to be reliant on agriculture livelihoods in rural areas (whether subsistence or for small income)</p> <p>Spatial zoning and safeguards across rural landscapes in flood/drought areas must account for gender and vulnerable groups. All members of the community, including those identified or identifying themselves as (but not limited to): vulnerable, women, men and non-binary, should be encouraged to contribute to the decision-making process</p>
<p>Outcome 2.3: Rehabilitated basin headwaters and wetlands, to improve water security and</p>	<p>Output 2.3.1: Develop and implement at least six (3 in each country) interventions for rehabilitation and effective management of protected areas and upper watersheds in river basin headwaters – to improve and maintain the delivery of ecosystem services, with an emphasis on safeguarding transboundary biodiversity of international importance</p>	<p>In relation to upper watersheds, Protected Areas and buffer zones – the inclusion of vulnerable populations and women is important, given that they are most often reliant on protected areas, forests and wetlands for their livelihoods. These populations are often forgotten in participatory activities and policy development, including acknowledging their reliance on natural resource areas, such as wetlands</p>

Outcomes	Outputs	Incorporating Gender and Vulnerability
climate resilience through ecosystem-based adaptation intervention	Output 2.3.2: Develop and implement at least four (2 in each country) interventions to rehabilitate and manage wetlands in the multiple use areas to strengthen PA buffer zones and improve ecological integrity for the delivery of ecosystem services (water storage/treatment/habitat)	and protected areas,. This needs to be factored into the restoration, rehabilitation and management interventions in watersheds and wetlands
Priority 3: Exchange information and knowledge		
Outcome 3.1: Flood and drought resilience and climate sensitive IWRM through knowledge sharing	Output 3.1.1: Maintain and apply the Joint Project Decision Support System (DSS) Atlas for the 9C-9T basin to inform basin planning and management and facilitate data sharing between ONWR and MOWRAM and other stakeholders	The incorporation and periodic update of vulnerability data as part of the DSS 9C-9T Basin Atlas for shared basin planning
	Output 3.1.2: Development and implement a system for interactive, transboundary communication on water availability and effective coordination of reservoir operations for water security	Communicating on best practices, experiences and learnings might be inclusive of impacts and mitigations, preparedness, responses and developments used in the Joint Project over time. Communication practices may include local or indigenous languages and various methods of visual aids that allow various vulnerable groups to more effectively receive information that is disseminated on improving population resilience to floods and droughts
	Output 3.1.3: Establish a system for community reporting on watershed and water body health, as a key input to reviewing and updating the 9C-9T basin management plan including local level support in ongoing monitoring, data collection, and preparing ecosystem health report cards including community-based hazard mapping and response analysis	The training of vulnerable persons to conduct localized hydrological monitoring and reporting The establishment of a community reporting system should consultatively involve vulnerable and gender populations. It should include a set of criteria into the data collection system that specifically identifies ecosystem health and hazards for disaggregated vulnerable and gender populations. Ensure participation and response also through the community-based hazard mapping exercises Gender and vulnerable categories of people should participate in the activities mentioned in the output, as they are living or working in the said area Provide training for vulnerable persons and women to conduct localized hydrological monitoring and reporting (linked to Priority 5)
Outcome 3.2: Replicate best practices and share lessons learnt from the 9C-9T Joint Project within the	Output 3.2.1: Replicate transboundary flood and drought M&E and resilience measures throughout the Mekong region through sharing of project lessons learnt within Cambodia, Thailand and via South-South exchanges	Development of commonly defined gender and vulnerability disaggregated data and a shared database of gender and vulnerability disaggregated data regarding resilience measures between the Mekong region Countries to ensure common replication of measurements. This should, showing how integrated gender and vulnerability interventions work, and replicated interventions may work, and if adjustments need to be made

Outcomes	Outputs	Incorporating Gender and Vulnerability
Lower Mekong Basin	Output 3.2.2: Develop and implement a communication strategy to share project knowledge and lessons learnt	It is generally best practice is to evaluate the risk management plans at all levels (community, district, Province, National) on an annual basis, in the case of major changes to landscape (economically, politically, institutionally, and environmentally) and/or in cases of higher impact disaster events Communicating, on best practices, experiences and learnings might be inclusive of impacts and mitigations, preparedness, responses and developments used in Project over time. This would be inclusive of those most affected and benefiting from the Project, that may more than likely be vulnerable populations
Priority 4: Strengthen hydromet network and flood and drought warning		
Outcome 4.1: Strengthened joint hydrological monitoring and warning protocols to reduce the impacts from flood and drought	Output 4.1.2: Establish joint mechanisms for exchange of real time hydrological monitoring data and early warning (national, provincial and local level at target communities)	Evaluating systems of measurement and early warning systems to improve on current inclusion of women, disabled, poor etc. Provide training of vulnerable persons and women to conduct localized hydrological monitoring and reporting (linked to Priority 5) and also awareness raising on EWS
	Output 4.1.3: Strengthen, expand existing communication and knowledge management tools and technologies for early warning to increase climate resilience of urban communities to floods	
	Output 4.1.4: Review, update and expand the joint monitoring network of equipment and systems for drought including seasonal forecasting and identification of drought early warning trigger values to improve efficiency and data sharing for monitoring and early warning	
Priority 5: Build regional capacity		
Outcome 5.1: Enhanced capacity for rehabilitation and maintenance of the basin through nature based and hybrid measures	Output 5.1.1: Provide detailed field-based training for engineers, foresters, watershed managers and other specialists in nature based and hybrid measures for all flood and drought interventions	Provide inclusive training comprising a percentage of professional qualified women and field-based specialists that are responsible/representative of the elderly, disabled and other vulnerable groups. This will support the design and implementation of improved interventions, as well as sustaining such measures post-projects Field-based training will provide skills on ecosystem-based flood/drought resilience and other climate change interventions. In the future, such trained groups should then be able to assist in enhanced capacity for residents and specialists in 9C-9T

Outcomes	Outputs	Incorporating Gender and Vulnerability
	Output 5.1.2: Design and implement a training program to build capacities of local sector and river basin organizations for detailed design, implementation and management of ecosystem-based adaptation measures in target areas	Gender and vulnerable population inclusion in local sector capacity building programs – design of interventions that assist women and vulnerable; interventions whereby the design, implementation and management may be conducted by the vulnerable and women themselves The training program will provide skills on ecosystem-based flood/drought resilience and other climate change interventions. In the future, such trained groups should then be able to assist in enhanced capacity for residents and specialists in 9C-9T
Outcome 5.2: Enhanced capacity river basin planning and transboundary management	Output 5.2.1: Design and implement a training program for senior staff in the public and private sector covering SEA of river basin management plans, economic valuation of ecosystem-based adaptation and supporting financial mechanisms, and cumulative impact assessment of existing and planned development in catchments	Provide inclusive training comprising a percentage of professional qualified women and senior staff that are responsible/representative of the elderly, disabled and other vulnerable groups. This will support the design and implementation of improved interventions, as well as sustaining such measures post-projects
	Output 5.2.2: Design and implement a central and provincial training programs for climate change vulnerability assessment and ecosystem-based adaptation planning as part of river basin planning	Part of the training programs should include aspects on how to raise or improve the resilience for women and vulnerable groups in climate risk
	Output 5.2.3: Design and implement central and provincial training programs for climate risk-informed water management practices in target urban and rural areas	Based on results of 5.2.2, part of the training programs should include aspects on how to raise or improve the resilience for women and vulnerable groups in climate risk
Outcome 5.4: Replication of 9C-9T river basin planning, restoration and transboundary management in in a second shared river basin in the Mekong Basin	Output 5.4.1: A comprehensive baseline assessment for the target sub-basin is developed, including a climate change vulnerability assessment and hydrological modelling	Climate Change vulnerability – identifying roles of vulnerable and women and men under normal livelihoods, assessing what are the factors that are increasing their vulnerability and reducing their resilience to climate change. Determining ways in which these risks may be avoided, mitigated or minimized through various interventions Additionally, the aim is to maintain or reduce the number of additional work hours for populations, such as women, required for new activities
	Output 5.4.3: Important demonstration landscapes and areas for NbS and hybrid measures are identified for river basin restoration	Community participation in river basin restoration activities, including efforts to include vulnerable groups and women, contributing to various interventions, suiting their capacity Additionally, consideration for developing measures that allow more access(ibility) and opportunities in restoration areas

Outcomes	Outputs	Incorporating Gender and Vulnerability
	Output 5.4.4: Collaborative joint institutional arrangements are established using the 9C-9T institutional structures as a model	At a higher level, institutional arrangements that are inclusive of advocates for vulnerable and gender-specific populations and gender-based equality or inclusion within the representatives on the institutional structures.
	Output 5.4.5: Training programs designed and implemented to build capacity for detailed design, development and implementation flood and drought management and ecosystem-based adaptation in target areas	The opportunity for all vulnerable populations to be included in training programs and the implementation of flood and drought management and ecosystem improvements Also, opportunities for training and capacity building targeting flood and drought resilience approaches that will contribute to reducing risks to vulnerable populations, women and men, through changes and additions to existing resilience mechanisms

5 GENDER AND VULNERABILITY ACTION PLAN

This section provides an overarching and supplementary Action Plan to incorporate gender and vulnerability approaches into the 9C-9T Flood and Drought Management Project Master Plan, Action Plan and Basin Atlas. A ten-point action plan has been identified, which also provides a brief explanation of some of the key Gender and Vulnerability Action Plan features, designed specifically for the 9C-9T sub-basin.

The Draft 9C-9T Flood and Drought Management Project G-VAP is presented in Table 4.

5.1 Activity 1: enhancing the gender and vulnerability data for the 9C-9T sub-basin

According to desk-based research on gender and vulnerability issues in Thailand and Cambodia, the majority of available data is on a much higher-level than basin or community scale, if available at all. The MRCS has collected baseline information on the Lower Mekong mainstream and floodplain areas, which have some relevance for the 9C-9T²³. While many statistical indicators are in English and Khmer in Cambodia, most key information for Thailand is only present in Thai.

The Joint Project Master Plan and Action Plan provides for high-level inclusion of gender and vulnerability into the Project. Also, the Basin Atlas provides aggregated 9C-9T socio-economic data, without gender and vulnerable disaggregation and/or flood/drought high risk population datasets.

Within the catchment area, a first step to achieving several activities of the G-VAP is to capture gender and vulnerable disaggregated data from local administrations and through site-based surveys.

The purpose of this action (Activity 1) is to **enhance the Joint Project database**, including through the Basin Atlas. The survey and database will be designed to specifically focus on data under the various categories of vulnerability – gender (male or female) and various demographic disaggregation that have not already been collected; male or female headed household (without partner), that have a responsibility for a family, especially looking after children in the family that are 15 years); single carers of physically or mentally disabled; physical or mental disabilities; elderly – over 65 years old in a household; low income and below poverty line individuals, including country specific and common definitions; unemployed and landless; homeless; non-citizen and those living in affected areas, where income and livelihoods and gender-based and biases are directly impacted by the frequency and magnitude of climate change.

5.2 Activity 2: increase focus on causal relationships – gender and vulnerability linked to climate change drivers and impacts

The activities of vulnerable people may either support basin protection and restoration, or contribute to basin degradation, contributing to reduced flood and drought community resilience.

The second action (Activity 2) of the G-VAP will establish, more conclusively and longitudinally, how vulnerable people, including women, are affected by climate change in both rural and urban areas of the sub-basin. Conversely, this will also identify the ways in which the same population are contributing to the increasing prevalence of flood and drought occurrences. The outcome of this activity will **recommend additional site-specific mitigation measures** that are relevant, cost-effective and simple to implement and develop (also refer to Section 5.6).

²³ Source: MRC, 2018. Social impact monitoring and vulnerability assessment 2018: <https://www.mrcmekong.org/assets/Publications/SIMVA2018.pdf>

5.3 Activity 3: enhancement of community-based flood and drought risk management to increase inclusivity of existing vulnerable people, non-binary and women, as well as men and to prevent increases in vulnerability

Often the needs of the marginalized and already vulnerable women and community members may not be fully considered in flood and drought risk management, even though they are most likely impacted.

The needs of vulnerable groups and women, as well as men and those who identify themselves as non-binary, are often only partially met (or not at all). For example the sick, disabled and elderly needing special assistance and appropriate sanitation facilities during flood events. The rationale for this action (Activity 3), to **prepare or upgrade community plans** that includes special requirements vulnerable people and women, as well as men and those who identify themselves as non-binary.

5.4 Activity 4: generate greater inclusivity of women, non-binary and vulnerable people in addition to men, in flood/drought resilience planning

In Thailand, Cambodia and many parts of Asia, especially the vulnerable and women do not participate in planning discussions in which they are present, even though they have legitimate, often practical solutions to issues a community is facing. In addition, the non-binary, elderly and disabled are not always heard because they are not present at meetings, may not project themselves or do not participate in consultations. Therefore, engagement at an individual level or as part of disaggregated groups, is often the only ways to gain information from such individuals.

This fourth action (Activity 4) is designed to **generate greater inclusion** of women, non-binary and vulnerable groups **in the planning and implementation** of preparedness, response, recovery, and development/policy related to floods and droughts. To improve the resilience of the poor and vulnerable, they will need to be involved in the decision-making process for resilience building interventions, as well as their longer-term monitoring.

5.5 Activity 5: develop gender and vulnerability inclusiveness in safeguards and consultation processes

It is known that men or village leaders are often the vocal contributors to various development works, consultations, and awareness activities. The contribution of this action (Activity 5) requires more effort be made to **include** women, non-binary and vulnerable groups into **the Joint Project development and consultation process**. This may include the establishment of specific community group meetings for women and vulnerable groups at local level. Note that this Activity is designed to follow-on from the planning phase of flood and drought management (Activity 4), and to also ensure that gender and vulnerability are included in all aspects of environmental and social safeguards of the sub-projects that relate to this activity.

5.6 Activity 6: prepare a community-based enabling strategy for strengthening resilience of vulnerable households located within high-risk areas

As identified in the 9C-9T Master Plan and Action Plan, some vulnerable and other households are located in areas that are highly vulnerable to floods and droughts.

This action (Activity 6) **enables the contribution of those residing in hazard-prone areas** to decision making on, and the implementation of, key resilience mitigation measures. It is expected that this will lead to a more sustainably resilient population who live in high-risk areas, especially those classified as vulnerable.

5.7 Activity 7: provide community-based flood, drought and climate change training

This Action (Activity 7) includes a Training Needs Assessment (TNA) conducted by the project to determine the existing capacity of sub-basin communities and **to plan and implement a community-**

based pilot training program that will focus on the flood, drought and climate change issues and their resilience, affecting the vulnerable and women in the 9C-9T sub-basin. Generally, on-the-job or field-based training is most effective.

5.8 Activity 8: provide training of government line agencies for gender and vulnerability, including strengthening institutional arrangements

This Action (Activity 8) includes a TNA to determine what existing institutional structure and capacity at the Government agency level exists, and **to plan and implement a training program for government line agencies** focused on flood and drought issues affecting the vulnerable and women in the 9C-9T sub-basin.

The proposed training method involves a mix of classroom training, using known examples, followed by practical site visits to physically demonstrate the training objectives.

5.9 Activity 9: preparing and implementing monitoring systems including disaggregation by gender and vulnerability

This Action (Activity 9) **involves the output of preparing and implementing a Project Performance Management / Monitoring System (PPMS)**, comprising gender and vulnerability information systems, disaggregated databases, and reporting mechanisms. The monitoring is recommended to align with the 9C-9T Action Plan schedule and any additional monitoring, evaluation, and adjustment to the G-VAP. The PPMS can only be prepared once the G-VAP commences implementation.

5.10 Activity 10: extension and cross-border training on successes and failures of interventions in gender and vulnerable-inclusive practices

Based on a review of the Action Plan, it is anticipated that stakeholders will identify any successful actions, but also potential gaps and a set of recommendations to fill those gaps.

This action (Activity 10) is designed to allow for sharing of successes and failures of gender- and vulnerability-based activities. The G-VAP outlines a recommendation for reviewing and undertaking gap-filling exercises at certain periods of implementation (refer to Section 5.9 above).

5.11 Activity 11: integration of gender and vulnerability into Priority 2 – landscape area interventions

This activity aims to **integrate** women, non-binary and men, as well as other vulnerable groups **to manage** urban and rural flood and drought risk reduction interventions, with a particular focus on nature-based and hybrid measures. Such actions may include interventions to reduce urban flood risks (e.g. urban river channel improvement, bank stabilization and natural flood retention areas) or developing and implementing rural landscape rehabilitation measures (e.g. agro-forestry activities sediment traps and riparian buffers).

5.12 Activity 12: assistance in building capacity in employment and employability of marginalized and vulnerable groups in implementation activities

This Activity is linked to Activity 7. Activity 7 focusses on training needs assessment and conducting training targeting communities at risk of flood and/or droughts. This activity is designed to provide skills training followed by **assistance, even prioritization, of offering employment and livelihood opportunities** to the vulnerable, non-binary, women and men (in marginal areas of the sub-basin). Marginalized and vulnerable groups may be employed to carry out the various 9C-9T sub-basin activities currently planned. This may include working on NbS interventions as an income source; activities that may reduce vulnerability through alternative livelihoods development.

5.13 Activity 13: gender and vulnerability role in financing-based mechanisms

Linking to all G-VAP Activities 1-12, there is need for additional project financing. Financing sources are offered by several agencies that prioritize vulnerable populations and gender development activities. This may include Global Environment Facility (GEF) funding for river basin restoration; establishing impact bonds for ecosystem-based flood and drought resilience building measures; or microenterprise development through capacity building and business start-up small loans, especially for women and vulnerable persons.

Adopting the KfW/World Bank and GVB safeguards policies will allow the 9C-9T Project to gain additional financing and access to specially targeted populations such as vulnerable persons and women (refer to Section 2.5 above).

Table 4: Gender and Vulnerability Action Plan

SN	Activity	Indicator	Responsibility	Timing	Budget
1.0	Gender and Vulnerability survey and assessment, for the 9C-9T sub-basin, focusing on the needs and activities on gender-based and vulnerable populations				
1.1	Collection of disaggregated secondary data relating to gender and vulnerability, focussed on the project area	All secondary data up to 2022 from various organisations have been reviewed	National, Provincial and District Government line agencies, with community leaders and community and Vulnerable groups	Immediate on Plan approval and 5-yearly; sample assessment annually with annual monitoring	TBA
1.2	Analysis, through a Screening, Scoping and Risk Assessment, in which specific issues and gaps are identified by risk levels		National, Provincial and District Government line agencies	Immediate on Plan approval	TBA
1.3	Prepare and conduct a wider scale socioeconomic survey, which focusses specifically drought and flood catchment issues and with disaggregated information on vulnerable populations and on separate impacts on women and men	At least 80% surveyed should be within the defined Vulnerability Category; 50% of the respondents (as minimum will be female, 20% non-binary and 30%% male	Provincial and District Government line agencies	Immediate on Plan approval and 5-yearly; sample assessment annually with annual monitoring	TBA
1.4	Site consultations with disaggregated groups	Women, men, non-binary, poor, other vulnerable in drought affected, flood affected, associated areas are consulted as a qualitative part of the assessment to confirm and supplement the statistical data collected	District and Provincial Government line agencies, Community leaders and with vulnerable, gender specific and marginal groups	Immediate on Plan approval and 5-yearly; sample assessment annually with annual monitoring	TBA
1.5	Identify marginal populations – those that are not yet vulnerable to flood and drought, but are at risk of becoming vulnerable – and conduct survey data collection and consultations (as per 1.3 and 1.4 above)	At least 80% surveyed should be within the defined Vulnerability Category; 50% of the respondents (as minimum will be female, 20% non-binary and 30%% male	Community Leaders and District Government	Immediate on Plan approval and 5-yearly; sample assessment annually with annual monitoring	TBA
1.6	Identify gaps in vulnerability and inclusiveness		Consultant	Immediate on Plan approval and 5-yearly; annual monitoring	TBA
1.7	Discuss results directly with stakeholders	One Workshop in each of the 9C-9T sub-basin Provinces to present results of study and discuss improvements to the G-VAP 2022	Community Leaders and District Government with community and Vulnerable groups	Immediate on Plan approval and 5-yearly; sample assessment annually with annual monitoring	TBA

SN	Activity	Indicator	Responsibility	Timing	Budget
1.8	Incorporate into Action Plan	Revised G-VAP 2022 updated	National, Provincial and District Government with Community Leaders and Vulnerable/ women/ non-binary / men in local areas	Immediate on Plan approval and 5-yearly; and immediately after a high-risk, large flood/drought or other hazard event occurring	TBA
2.0	Focus on causal relationships – gender and vulnerability linked to climate change drivers and impacts				
2.1	Gender and Vulnerability Survey (refer to 1 above)	Refer to Activity 1.0 One Workshop in each of the 9C-9T sub-basin Provinces to present results of study and discuss improvements to the G-VAP 2022 Women, men, poor, other vulnerable in drought affected, flood affected, associated areas are consulted	Organized by National and Provincial Government attended by Local Government, community leaders and representatives of community and Vulnerable groups	Immediate on Plan approval and 5-yearly; sample assessment annually with annual monitoring	TBA
2.2	Identify and implement measures through participatory means that reduce impacts caused by livelihood actions of the vulnerable	Revised G-VAP 2022 updated Women, men, poor, other vulnerable in drought affected, flood affected, associated areas are consulted	District Government line agencies, with assistance from Provincial Government line agencies, as needed, and community and Vulnerable groups participating	Immediate on Plan approval and continually	TBA
2.3	Identify and implement measures that reduce impacts on vulnerable populations and women associated with flood and drought	Revised G-VAP 2022 updated and implementation schedules fully approved by both countries and MRC	District Government line agencies, with assistance from Provincial Government line agencies, as needed, and community and Vulnerable groups participating	Plan approval +10 months Annual reviews	TBA
2.4	At minimum, annual revision of causal relationship between vulnerable groups and women with flood and drought risk	Women, men, poor, other vulnerable in drought affected, flood affected, associated areas are consulted	District Government line agencies, with assistance from Provincial Government line agencies, as needed, and community and Vulnerable groups participating	End of year 1	TBA

SN	Activity	Indicator	Responsibility	Timing	Budget
3.0	Community-based flood and drought risk management to prevent increased vulnerability and inclusivity of existing vulnerable groups and women, and to prevent increases in vulnerability				
3.1	Assessment of Risk Management Plans (if any)	2 pilot sites (1 on each side of the border), which will be expanded each year	Provincial and District Government facilitating the community and Vulnerable groups	Immediate on Plan approval and 5-yearly; and immediately after a high-risk, large flood/drought occurrence	TBA
3.2	Preparation of vulnerable community flood and drought risk management plans	2 pilot sites (1 on each side of the border), which will be expanded each year	Provincial and District Government facilitating the community and Vulnerable groups	Immediate on Plan approval and 5-yearly; and immediately after a high-risk, large flood/drought occurrence	TBA
3.3	Annual update of plans	2 pilot sites (1 on each side of the border), which will be expanded each year	Provincial and District Governments with community and Vulnerable groups. Facilitated by National Governments	Immediate on Plan approval and 5-yearly; and immediately after a high-risk, large flood/drought occurrence	TBA
3.4	Update of plans with existing flood and drought management plans (as normal procedure schedule)	2 pilot sites (1 on each side of the border), which will be expanded each year	Provincial and District Governments with community and Vulnerable groups. Facilitated by National Governments	Immediate on Plan approval and 5-yearly; and immediately after a high-risk, large flood/drought occurrence	TBA
3.5	Plan update as per hazard and disaster events in areas of vulnerable and marginal group locations/impacts	2 pilot sites (1 on each side of the border), which will be expanded each year	Local Government line agencies with information from community and Vulnerable groups	Immediate on Plan approval and 5-yearly; and immediately after a high-risk, large flood/drought occurrence	TBA

SN	Activity	Indicator	Responsibility	Timing	Budget
4.0	Greater inclusivity of women and vulnerable people in flood/drought resilience planning				
4.1	Capacity assessment of vulnerable populations and women in the 9C-9T sub-basin	Training Needs Assessment included in the 1.0 surveys	District and Provincial Government line agencies, Community leaders and with vulnerable, gender specific and marginal groups	Immediate on Plan approval and 5-yearly; and immediately after a high-risk, large flood/drought occurrence.	TBA
4.2	Determine from 3.0 the roles of vulnerable groups and women contributing to flood and drought risk management planning and implementation	2 pilot sites (1 on each side of the border), which will be expanded each year after review of successes and gaps	National, Provincial and District Government with community and Vulnerable groups	Immediate on Plan approval and 5-yearly; and sample assessment annually with annual monitoring	TBA
4.3	Training and capacity building of vulnerable people in contribution to planning, preparedness, management and hazard monitoring (especially women and disabled)	Hazard monitoring developed and members of affected basin communities are employed to conduct hazard monitoring. At least 80% of trainees should be within the defined vulnerability category; 50% of the respondents (as a minimum) will be female	National Provincial and local Government line agencies with community leaders, community members and Vulnerable groups	Should be continuous on an informal basis. Immediate on Plan approval and 5-yearly; and immediately after a high-risk, large flood/drought or other hazard event occurring.	TBA
4.4	Development of a coordination group in Cambodia and Thailand with membership via local government agencies, ensuring exchange of data and information from 4.3 above	3 Member representatives of community from each of the Sub-basin Provinces, with at least 50% female Government agencies to be decided by Cambodia and Thailand Governments. Recommendation for 50% male/female from Ministries that cover each aspect of gender and vulnerability	National Provincial and local Government line agencies with community leaders, community members and Vulnerable groups	Continuous throughout and beyond project life. Minimum requirement - Immediate on Plan approval and 5-yearly; and sample assessment annually with annual monitoring	TBA
4.5	Actioning roles as determined in 3.0 and 4.2-4.4 above		National, Provincial, District Government, community leaders with community members and Vulnerable groups	Continuous throughout and beyond project life	TBA

SN	Activity	Indicator	Responsibility	Timing	Budget
5.0	Gender and vulnerability inclusiveness in safeguards and consultation processes				
5.1	All data collection to be disaggregated by gender and key vulnerable groups	At least 80% surveyed should be within the defined Vulnerability Category; 50% of the respondents (as minimum will be female, 20% non-binary and 30% male	District Government and community leaders with vulnerable, gender specific and marginal groups	Immediate on Plan approval and 5-yearly; and sample assessment annually with annual monitoring	TBA
5.2	Consultation, awareness, training and meetings	30% female and 20% other vulnerable groups	District Government line agencies and community leaders and representative groups of vulnerable, gender specific (men, women and non-binary separate) and marginal groups		TBA
5.3	Consultation of separate gender specific and vulnerable groups, to illicit more accurate information on the design of the Joint Project to cover women and vulnerable people	Disaggregated responses and needs from Women, Men and Vulnerable groups	District Government line agencies and community leaders and representative groups of vulnerable, gender specific (men, women and non-binary separate) and marginal groups		TBA
6.0	Strategy for strengthening resilience of vulnerable households located within high-risk areas				
6.1	Survey data collection and consultation to identify community level hazard risks affecting the vulnerable and marginal groups	At least 80% surveyed should be within the defined Vulnerability Category; 50% of the respondents (as minimum will be female, 20% non-binary and 30%% male	District Government and community leaders with vulnerable, gender specific and marginal groups	Immediate on Plan approval and 5-yearly; and sample assessment annually with annual monitoring	TBA
6.2	Participatory implementation of hazard reduction plan in vulnerable areas		District, with Provincial Support / Community		TBA

SN	Activity	Indicator	Responsibility	Timing	Budget
7.0	Community-based training				
7.1	Conduct Training Needs Assessment (TNA) with target population (sample size to be determined)	Training Needs Assessment included in the 1.0 surveys	District and Provincial Government line agencies	Immediate on Plan approval	TBA
7.2	Prepare and conduct awareness training program within the communities that focus on gender inclusivity and vulnerability	Minimum 5 per province	District and Provincial Government line agencies and community	TNA completion +2 months	TBA
7.3	Develop training requirements and conduct training of vulnerable and women to enable participation in tasks of Flood/drought mitigation measures and emergency events. Potentially this may be regularly measurement of water through the catchment river systems for early warning downstream or controlling water use in times of drought and dry seasons	At least 80% surveyed should be withing the defined Vulnerability Category; 50% of the respondents (as minimum will be female, 20% non-binary and 30%% male	District and Provincial Government line agencies / vulnerable, women and non-binary groups to participate	TNA completion +5 months and ad-hoc when need arises	TBA
8.0	Training of government line agencies for gender and vulnerability, including strengthen Institutional arrangements				
8.1	Conduct TNA with target population (sample size to be determined)	Training Needs Assessment included in the 1.0 surveys	National Provincial and District Government line agencies	Immediate on Plan approval	TBA
8.2	Prepare and conduct awareness training program that focus on gender inclusivity and vulnerability	To be decided during training needs assessment and discussion with MRC – with at least two training in each	National Provincial and District Government line agencies	TNA completion +1 months	TBA
8.3	Develop needs for training and conduct training of Government stakeholders to fully include vulnerable and women participation in tasks of Flood/drought mitigation measures and emergency events	Country with Thailand and Cambodia officers joining each training	National Provincial and District Government line agencies	TNA completion +3 months and ad-hoc when need arises	TBA
8.4	Develop needs for training and conduct training of Government stakeholders in identification of marginal areas where vulnerable and women are located, and potential tasks of Flood/drought mitigation measures and emergency management at community scale		National and Provincial Government line agencies / with community and Vulnerable groups	TNA completion +2 months	TBA

SN	Activity	Indicator	Responsibility	Timing	Budget
9.0	Monitoring systems, including disaggregation by gender and vulnerability				
9.1	Collection of Disaggregated Secondary data relating to gender and vulnerability, focussed on the Project area	At least 80% surveyed should be within the defined Vulnerability Category; 50% of the respondents (as minimum will be female, 20% non-binary and 30% male	Provincial and District Government line agencies / with community and Vulnerable groups	Immediate on Plan approval and 5-yearly; and sample assessment annually with annual monitoring	TBA
9.2	Project Performance Management / Monitoring System (PPMS) Plan and database of gender and vulnerability in the Project area	Database and PPMS Plan is prepared and approved by stakeholders	District Government Line agencies with community and Vulnerable groups	Immediate on Plan approval	TBA
9.3	Annual review reporting of impact of G-VAP implementation on its target population and local government officer involvement	1 Workshop in each Province every 6-months; with 4 representatives (including community members) from each province to attend annual workshop	Provincial and District Government Line agencies with community and Vulnerable groups	Yearly	TBA
9.4	Annual workshop involving vulnerable and women as the key presenters and contributors		Provincial and District Government Line agencies with community and Vulnerable groups	Yearly	TBA
9.5	Additional monitoring	Special circumstances only	Provincial and District Government Line agencies with community and Vulnerable groups	On the basis of major changes in the 9C-9T Master Plan or 9C-9T Action Plan; or G-VAP	TBA
10.0	Extension and cross-border training and implementation on the successes and failures of interventions in gender and vulnerable-inclusive practices				
10.1	Annual review of G-VAP implementation (9.4 above)	To be conducted per PPMS plan, when prepared	Provincial and District Government Line agencies with community and Vulnerable groups	Immediately after Plan approval and 9C-9T assessment (1.0 above) and each year	TBA
10.2	Annual workshop involving vulnerable and women as the key presenters and contributors	1 Workshop in each Province every 6-months; with 4 representatives (including community members) from each province to attend annual workshop	Provincial and District Government Line agencies with community and Vulnerable groups	Immediately after Plan approval and after 9C-9T assessment (1.0 above) and each year	TBA

SN	Activity	Indicator	Responsibility	Timing	Budget
10.3	Implementation of learning outcomes from workshop at local levels		District and sub-district Government line agencies with community level Vulnerable groups and non-vulnerable participation	Immediately after Plan approval and after 9C-9T assessment (1.0 above) and each year	TBA
10.4	5-year review and overhaul of G-VAP and its implementation	Updated G-VAP, based on the learnings from this G-VAP (2022) implementation	National, Provincial and District Government Line agencies with community and Vulnerable groups representation	Review as per main Action plan and Master Plan	TBA
11.0	Integration of gender and vulnerability into Priority 2 – landscape area interventions				
11.1	Results of Gender and Vulnerability Assessment survey within the 9C-9T Sub-basin (refer to Activity 1)	Needs of various vulnerable and gender groups identified within the sub-basin	National, Provincial and District Government Line agencies with community and Vulnerable groups representation	Immediate on G-VAP Plan approval	TBA
11.2	Conduct TNA with target population (sample size to be determined)	Identified types of training and capacity building required for livelihoods and change of employment (if needed)	District and Provincial Government line agencies, Community leaders and with vulnerable, gender specific and marginal groups	Immediate on G-VAP Plan approval	TBA
11.3	Employment skills training as identified by 12.1 and 12.2	More vulnerable and gender diverse employment opportunities available Gender diverse and vulnerable persons trained for income generation activities or employed for sub-basin development	Provincial and District Government Line agencies targeting Women, non-binary, general community and Vulnerable groups	Immediately after potential special financing and sub-projects are identified/approved	TBA
11.4	Develop and organize women, non-binary and men as well as other vulnerable groups to conduct various flood and drought risk reduction and NbS interventions that will develop less reliance on seasons and more perennial, sustainable actions to allow for an improvement in the resilience of marginal populations	Gender diverse and vulnerable persons for flood and drought risks reduced Sub-basin development is improved	Gender diverse and vulnerable persons for income generation activities or employed for sub-basing development		TBA

SN	Activity	Indicator	Responsibility	Timing	Budget
11.5	Annual review of G-VAP implementation (9.4 above)	To be conducted per PPMS plan, when prepared	Provincial and District Government Line agencies with community and Vulnerable groups	Immediately after Plan approval and 9C-9T assessment (1.0 above) and each year	TBA
12.0	Employment an employability of marginalized and vulnerable groups in implementation activities				
12.1	Results of Gender and Vulnerability Assessment survey within the 9C-9T Sub-basin (refer to Activity 1)	Needs of various vulnerable and gender groups identified within the sub-basin	National, Provincial and District Government Line agencies with community and Vulnerable groups representation	Immediate on G-VAP Plan approval	TBA
12.2	Conduct TNA with target population (sample size to be determined)	Identified types of training and capacity building required for livelihoods and change of employment (if needed)	District and Provincial Government line agencies, Community leaders and with vulnerable, gender specific and marginal groups	Immediate on G-VAP Plan approval	TBA
12.3	Employment skills training as identified by 12.1 and 12.2	More vulnerable and gender diverse employment opportunities available Gender diverse and vulnerable persons trained for income generation activities or employed for sub-basin development	Provincial and District Government Line agencies targeting Women, non-binary, general community and Vulnerable groups	Immediately after potential special financing and sub-projects are identified/approved	TBA
12.4	Employment centre in districts with specific employment opportunities for vulnerable and women	More vulnerable and gender diverse employment opportunities available Gender diverse and vulnerable persons for income generation activities or employed for sub-basin development	Provincial and District Government Line agencies targeting Women, non-binary, general community and Vulnerable groups	Immediately after potential special financing and sub-projects are identified/approved	TBA
13.0	Gender and vulnerability role in financing-based mechanisms				
13.1	Results of Gender and Vulnerability Assessment survey within the 9C-9T Sub-basin (refer to Activity 1)	Needs of various vulnerable and gender groups identified within the sub-basin	National, Provincial and District Government Line agencies with community and Vulnerable groups representation	Immediate on G-VAP Plan approval	TBA

SN	Activity	Indicator	Responsibility	Timing	Budget
13.2	Identification of sustainable financing mechanisms, with specific financing targets, such as climate change, nature-based measures, gender specificity	Specific, appropriate donors with specialized financing identified and proposals prepared	National Government agencies responsible for obtaining external financing	As early as possible after needs assessment results identified. Proposals may only be accepted by a donor at certain times of year	TBA
13.3	Proposal development for financing (as identified)	Financial proposal submitted Financing secured	National, Provincial and District Government Line agencies	Immediately after potential special financing and sub-projects are identified/approved	TBA
13.4	Implementation as part of G-VAP Activities 1-12	Refer to activity 9.0 and 10.0	National, Provincial and District Government Line agencies targeting community and Vulnerable groups representation	As per conditions of financing agreement with donor.	TBA

6 SCHEDULE

The overall 9C-9T Master Plan and Action Plan implementation is valid for 5-years, followed by a review of resultant outcomes and a renewed, updated Action Plan prepared and agreed jointly by Cambodia and Thailand. The Gender and Vulnerability Action Plan is also designed to follow a similar overall schedule of development and review. However, scheduling of activities will be the responsibility of the respective Cambodian and Thai governments.

Additionally, each of the thirteen key outcome sections of the G-VAP may be implemented as its own set of integrated activities, since a number of activities do rely on completion of others. For example, the completion of various sub-activities will need to be initiated, for other activities or sub-activities to commence - Activity 1: Gender and Vulnerability survey and assessment activities; Activity 6: Gender and Vulnerability inclusiveness safeguards; and Activity 10: Extension and cross-border training and implementation of successes and failures of interventions in Gender and Vulnerable inclusive practices.

7 MONITORING

The G-VAP is designed to align with the overarching 9C-9T Action Plan and therefore is expected to follow a similar monitoring, review and update process.

7.1 Monitoring through project performance management/monitoring systems (PPMS) development

While the G-VAP will provide some indicators and baseline information for monitoring, it is necessary that a more robust Monitoring Plan be prepared. This will be developed in the form of a Project Performance Management System (PPMS).

The PPMS is a critical tool in providing a structured approach to performance measurement. PPMS is “a coherent and results-based approach to project planning, performance monitoring and evaluation of the results... assess the likelihood that key milestones... for activities, outputs, outcomes and impacts will be achieved”²⁴. It will enable project countries, the MRC and project partners, to collect data and monitor project impacts, progress and the intended benefits accrued from the Project G-VAP. For any PPMS to be effective, it must be developed, in cooperation with all stakeholders, to ensure its continuation throughout G-VAP implementation, review, and update process, including for future iterations.

The PPMS will not, and should not, remain static over the life of this Project and beyond. It will need to be modified, as required, in order to reflect changes in the Project, data availability and improved understanding of the causal relationships between the expected project objectives, outputs and outcomes along with the Government laws and standards, required development objectives and IFI requirements. Evaluations of the effectiveness of this Plan may need to be undertaken from time to time to examine the suitability of the Project data being collected against the key indicators to determine project effectiveness and lessons learned. This will be incorporated into updating the PPM System and may be used by the IFIs and subsequent investors for their own PPMS procedures related to this Project and for the current Thailand and Cambodian Government and KfW to continue monitoring the project performance benefits after the project completion.

The PPMS is designed to show the relationship between project activities, reaching satisfactory outputs and successfully achieving the goal and purpose of the Project. The following are definitions of each of the columns of Table 7.1 used in the project performance management plans:

- The “**Design Summary**” is a description of the project goal, purpose, outputs, activities and/or inputs by which project performance is required to be measured;
- “**Performance Target and Indicator Baselines**” describes what in the project would verify that the design summary (a goal, purpose, output or activity) has been successfully carried out and the result achieved;
- “**Description of Indicator and Data Requirements**”, expands on the performance indicator by defining what actual measurements would prove success or failure-success of the performance indicator;
- “**Recommended Data Sources and Collection Methods**” provides information as to where a suggested indicator data set could be accessed and what data collection methods are best used for collecting the data;
- “**Frequency**” – recommends the timing requirements for collecting data, although generally for this project this will involve baseline, mid-term and end of project dataset collection, with a few datasets to be collected on an annual, seasonal and/or *ad-hoc* basis; and
- “**Responsibility**” lists each key person, agency or group who should be collecting the data.

²⁴ Source: ADB, 2006, OM/OP “Project Performance Management System – OMJ - 01” 24 January 2006,

Each of the (i) Impact, (ii) Outcomes and (iii) Other Project Performance (social safeguard) categories listed under the “Design Summary” of the PPMS for this Project has a corresponding set of (i) performance indicators; (ii) indicator description and (iii) recommended data sources; (iv) frequencies; and (v) assigned responsibilities.

Table 5: The project performance management plan structure

Performance Indicator	Description of Indicator and Data Requirements	Recommended Data Sources, and Collection Methods	Frequency	Responsibility
1. Impact				
2. Outcomes				
3. Other Performance Indicators				

7.2 G-VAP specific recommended monitoring review periods and triggers

Some of the recommended activities in the G-VAP have specific review and monitoring periods, which are triggered by:

- A need of sub-activity completion, to enable other G-VAP activities or sub-activities to be implemented;
- Using best practice in the flood and drought risk management, including monitoring and review of plans on an annual basis;
- Using best practice in the Emergency and disaster risk management sector, monitoring review of the whole G-VAP or selected components will be required directly after any severe flood or drought event. Adjustments may also be required during longer-term events, such as extended drought periods; and
- In cases of significant changes to the Cambodian or Thai legal framework and/or the 9C-9T Action Plan or 9C-9T Master Plan, the G-VAP may also need to be reviewed and updated to ensure revisions are incorporated.

ANNEX 1. RELEVANT WORLD BANK ESF SAFEGUARDS

The following section provides a description of the World Bank ESF safeguards relevant to the 9C-9T Joint Project that must be complied on KfW Projects, with regards to women and vulnerable population.

a) Environmental and Social Standard 2: Labor and Working Conditions

ESS 2 recognizes that the pursuit of economic growth through job creation and income generation should be in harmony with protecting workers' basic rights, including women, children and other vulnerable groups. Main objectives as follows:

- To promote fair and non-discriminatory treatment and equal opportunity for workers.
- To establish, maintain and enhance the relationship between the employee and the management.
- To promote compliance with national employment and employment laws
- To promote safe and healthy working conditions, as well as the health of workers.
- To promote safety and health at work.
- To promote the fair treatment, nondiscrimination and equal opportunity of project workers.
- To protect project workers, including vulnerable workers such as women, persons with disabilities, children (of working age, in accordance with this ESS) and migrant workers, contracted workers, community workers and primary supply workers, as appropriate.
- To prevent the use of all forms of forced labor and child labor.
- To support the principles of freedom of association and collective bargaining of project workers in a manner consistent with national law.
- To provide project workers with accessible means to raise workplace concerns.

b) Environmental and Social Standard: Community Health and Safety

ESS 4 concerns project activities, equipment and infrastructure that may increase community exposure to the risks and impacts involved in a project development or operation. In addition, for communities that have been affected by climate change impacts, there may be residual effects due to project activities. The standard is designed to ensure that the protection of people and property is carried out in accordance with human rights principles and to avoid or minimize the risks to the safety and security of the affected community.

While acknowledging the role of government agencies in promoting health, safety and security of the public, this standard outlines the projects' responsibility to avoid or minimize risks and impacts in safety, health and security of the community that could arise from project activities, especially for vulnerable groups and women such as exposure to worker influx, causing sexual exploitation; and health issues caused by the increased incidence and magnitude of floods and drought events.

The requirements of ESS 4 include:

- To anticipate and avoid adverse impacts on the health and safety of project-affected communities during the project life cycle from both routine and non-routine circumstances.
- To promote quality and safety, and considerations relating to climate change, in the design and construction of infrastructure.
- To avoid or minimize community exposure to project-related traffic and road safety risks, diseases, and hazardous materials.
- To have in place effective measures to address emergency events.
- To ensure that the safeguarding of personnel and property is carried out in a manner that avoids or minimizes risks to the project-affected communities.

c) Environmental and Social Standard 5: Land Acquisition, restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary resettlement

Resettlement and Land Acquisition (Physical and/or Economic Displacement) are covered by the World Bank's Environment and Social Framework (ESF). ESS 5 is the most important standard and focus for Resettlement, Land Acquisition and/or access to resources. The standard recognizes that land acquisition and restrictions on land use can have negative effects on communities and people. Involuntary resettlement involves physical displacement (displacement or loss of shelter) and economic displacement (loss of assets or access to assets leading to loss of income sources or livelihoods) due to land for the project. In the 9C-9T Project, ESS 5 should be complied in terms of needing to relocate vulnerable populations from high-risk flood or drought risk areas, enforcing commonly used natural resource areas that are deemed official "protected areas" or in cases of flood or drought mitigation infrastructure (in subsequent reviewed 9C-9T Action Plans).

The main ESS 5 objectives are as follows:

- To avoid involuntary resettlement or, when unavoidable, minimize involuntary resettlement by exploring project design alternatives.
- To avoid forced eviction.
- To mitigate unavoidable adverse social and economic impacts from land acquisition or restrictions on land use by:
 - Providing timely compensation for loss of assets at replacement cost; and
 - Assisting displaced persons in their efforts to improve, or at least restore, their livelihoods and living standards, in real terms, to pre-displacement levels or to levels prevailing prior to the beginning of project implementation, whichever is higher.
- To improve living conditions of poor or vulnerable persons who are physically displaced, through provision of adequate housing, access to services and facilities, and security of tenure.
- To improve living conditions for displaced people by providing accommodation with guaranteed legal right at the site of resettlement
- To conceive and execute resettlement activities as sustainable development programs, providing sufficient investment resources to enable displaced persons to benefit directly from the project, as the nature of the project may warrant.
- To ensure that resettlement activities are planned and implemented with appropriate disclosure of information, meaningful consultation, and the informed participation of those affected.

d) Environmental and Social Standard 7: Indigenous Peoples / Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities

ESS 7 recognizes that the people of minority indigenous, as social groups with identities distinct from dominant groups within a country, often among the marginalized groups and disadvantaged. They may be known as "indigenous ethnic minorities," "aboriginals," "hill tribes," "vulnerable and marginalized groups," "minority nationalities," "scheduled tribes," "first nations" or "tribal groups."

In many cases, Indigenous persons economic, social and legal status often limits their ability to protect their rights, and their access to land and natural and cultural resources and limit their ability to participate in and benefit from development. They are especially vulnerable if their land and resources are renovated, encroached from outside, or significantly degraded. Their language, culture, religion, spiritual beliefs, and organizations may also be threatened. These characteristics leave indigenous people vulnerable to different types of risks and the severity of impacts, including loss of identity, culture, and livelihoods based on natural resources, as well as risk of impoverishment and disease.

The purpose ESS 7 is:

- To predict and avoid the project's negative impacts on indigenous and ethnic minority communities, or when unavoidable, minimize and / or mitigate for such impacts.

- To promote culturally sustainable benefits and opportunities for ethnic minorities appropriately.
- To ensure that the affected ethnic minorities understand and are not forced (called FPIC - Free, Prior and Informed Consent) when the situations described in this operating standard occur.
- To respect and preserve the culture, knowledge and practical activities of ethnic minorities
- To give opportunity to indigenous persons to participate in, and benefit from, the development process in ways that do not threaten their unique cultural identities and well-being
- To ensure that the development process fosters full respect for the human rights, dignity, aspirations, identity, culture, and natural resourcebased livelihoods of Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities.
- To avoid adverse impacts of projects on Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities, or when avoidance is not possible, to minimize, mitigate and/or compensate for such impacts.
- To promote sustainable development benefits and opportunities for Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities in a manner that is accessible, culturally appropriate and inclusive
- To improve project design and promote local support by establishing and maintaining an ongoing relationship based on meaningful consultation with the Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities affected by a project throughout the project's life cycle.
- To obtain the Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) of affected Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities in the three circumstances described in this ESS.
- To recognize, respect and preserve the culture, knowledge, and practices of Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities, and to provide them with an opportunity to adapt to changing conditions in a manner and in a timeframe acceptable to them.

e) Environmental and Social Standard 8 – Cultural heritage

Environmental and Social Standard 8 recognizes the importance of cultural heritage for today's and future generations. In compliance with the Convention on the Protection of Natural and Cultural Heritage, ESS 8 is intended to ensure that project activities and outcomes are responsible for protecting cultural heritage, be they tangible or intangible values, beliefs, knowledge, traditions, natural or physical structures of cultural significance. This may be respecting religious and cultural activities centred around disaster hazard events, cultural requirements considerations in flood/drought resilience interventions. In addition, the requirements of this Standard for the use of cultural heritage for the project are based in part on the criteria of the Convention on Biological Diversity . Key objectives include:

- To protect cultural heritage from the adverse impacts of project activities and support its preservation.
- To address cultural heritage as an integral aspect of sustainable development.
- To promote meaningful consultation with stakeholders regarding cultural heritage.
- To promote the equitable sharing of benefits from the use of cultural heritage.

f) Environmental and Social Standard 10 – Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure

ESS 10 requires projects conduct open and transparent engagement between the Borrower/project owner and project stakeholders, as an essential element of good international practice. Effective stakeholder engagement can improve the environmental and social sustainability of projects, enhance project acceptance, and make a significant contribution to successful project design and implementation. As a part of the G-VAP enhanced inclusion women and categories of vulnerable

persons, in some activities, may lead to improved results of the 5-year 9C-9T Action Plan.

The Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure ESS is designed:

- To establish a systematic approach to stakeholder engagement that will help Borrowers identify stakeholders and build and maintain a constructive relationship with them, in particular project-affected parties.
- To assess the level of stakeholder interest and support for the project and to enable stakeholders' views to be taken into account in project design and environmental and social performance.
- To promote and provide means for effective and inclusive engagement with project-affected parties throughout the project life cycle on issues that could potentially affect them.
- To ensure that appropriate project information on environmental and social risks and impacts is disclosed to stakeholders in a timely, understandable, accessible and appropriate manner and format.
- To provide project-affected parties with accessible and inclusive means to raise issues and grievances, and allow Borrowers to respond to and manage such grievances.

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