

Chapter 3 Family Composition of Households

3.1 Cambodian Family

The family is the major unit of both production and consumption. Within this unit are the strongest emotional ties, the assurance of aid in the event of trouble, economic cooperation in labor, sharing of produce and income, and contribution as a unit to ceremonial obligations. A larger grouping, the personal kindred that includes a nuclear family with the children, grandchildren, grandparents, uncles, aunts, first cousins, nephews, and nieces, may be included in the household. Family organization is weak, and ties between related families beyond the kindred are loosely defined at best. There is no tradition of family names. Most Khmer genealogies extend back only two or three generations, which contrasts with the veneration of ancestors by the Vietnamese and by the Chinese. Noble families and royal families, some of which can trace their descent for several generations, are exceptions (Internet from Khmer household and Family Structure (<http://asiarecipe.com/camfamily.html/>)).

Legally, the husband is the head of the Khmer family, but the wife has considerable authority, especially in family economics. The husband is responsible for providing shelter and food for his family; the wife is generally in charge of the family budget, and she serves as the major ethical and religious model for the children, especially the daughters. In rural areas, the male is mainly responsible for such activities as plowing and harrowing the rice paddies, threshing rice, collecting sugar palm juice, caring for cattle, carpentry, and buying and selling cows or buffaloes and chickens. Women are mainly responsible for pulling and transplanting rice seedlings, harvesting and winnowing rice, tending gardens, making sugar, weaving, and caring for the household money. Both males and females may work at preparing the rice paddies for planting, tending the paddies, and buying and selling land.

In urban areas, the male is mainly responsible in majority for such activities as gain food including: armed forces, managers, professionals, technicians and associate professionals, clerical support worker, service and sales worker, craft and related workers, plant and machine operator, and assembler, and elementary occupations. Women are also participating economic activities, but mainly responsible in minority for the above cited activities and take care of their young children.

Ownership of property among the rural Khmer was vested in the nuclear family. Descent and inheritance is bilateral. Legal children might inherit equally from their parents. The division of property was theoretically equal among siblings, but in practice the oldest child might inherit more. Each of the spouses might bring inherited land into the family, and the family might acquire joint land during the married life of the couple. Each spouse was free to dispose of his or her land as he or she chose. A will was usually oral, although a written one was preferred.

3.2 Family Composition of Households

3.2.1 Type of Family Composition of Households

Taken the normal or regular household due to its importance, aspect and situation of residence and number of person to consider the family composition of household, Table 3.1 provides the each type of family composition of household. As mentioned in Chapter 1, the categories on relationship to household-head turned into 15 categories from 7 categories between 2008 population census and 2013 CIPS, and the family classification was affected, too. A careful consideration is needed for the comparison of family between 2008 and 2013. The normal households by type of family composition is shown in Table 3.1.

Total normal households consists of three types of households; A. relative households, B. one-person household and C. non relative household. As shown in Table 3.1, relative household is an overwhelming majority (96 percent of total normal households). Particularly, the male-headed relative household accounts for 99 percent of total male-headed households, while for female-headed relative households accounts for 90 percent.

Table 3.1 Normal Households by Type of Family Composition of Households, Household Heads by Sex, 2008 and 2013								
Type of Family Composition of Households	2013			2008	2013			2008
	Total	Male-Headed	Female-Headed	Total	Total	Male-Headed	Female-Headed	Total
Total Household A+B+C	3,163,226	2,306,765	856,462	2,817,637	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>A. Relative Households : 1)+2)+3)+4)</i>	<i>3,047,415</i>	<i>2,278,046</i>	<i>769,370</i>	<i>2,709,603</i>	<i>96.3</i>	<i>98.8</i>	<i>89.8</i>	<i>96.2</i>
1)Nuclear Family (one or two generations)	2,085,944	1,667,484	418,459	1,863,968	65.9	72.3	48.9	66.2
Married Couple Only	172,122	158,598	13,524	131,252	5.4	6.9	1.6	4.7
Parents with children	1,574,370	1,455,017	119,353	1,436,201	49.8	63.1	13.9	51.0
One Parent with children(Father/Mother with his/her children)	315,776	36,733	279,044	292,592	10.0	1.6	32.6	10.4
Couple with their parent	23,675	17,137	6,538	3,923	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.1
2)Extended Family Households	128,965	120,722	8,242	0	4.1	5.2	1.0	0.0
Couple with his/her children and both parents	15,426	14,501	924	0	0.5	0.6	0.1	0.0
Couple with his/her children and one-parent	113,539	106,221	7,318	0	3.6	4.6	0.9	0.0
3)Other Relatives Households(Other relative members)	832,507	489,839	342,668	845,635	26.3	21.2	40.0	30.0
<i>B. One-person Household</i>	<i>115,125</i>	<i>28,451</i>	<i>86,674</i>	<i>99,786</i>	<i>3.6</i>	<i>1.2</i>	<i>10.1</i>	<i>3.5</i>
<i>C. Non-Relative Household</i>	<i>686</i>	<i>268</i>	<i>418</i>	<i>8,248</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>0.3</i>
Note: In CIPS 2013, category of family code(relationship to head of household), increase from 7 (2008) to 13 (2013).								
New category are stepchild, adopted/foster child, sibling, niece/nephew, child-in-law, sibling-in-law, parent-in-law, servant.								
These new categories might be classified into other relatives or non-relative household in 2008.								
Other relatives households include father/mother with his/her children and both parents or one-parent in 2013.								

Relative households consists of three type of households: 1) nuclear family households, 2) extended family households and 3) other relative households. A nuclear family household account for 66 percent of total normal households and an extended family is only 4 percent, while other relative is 26 percent. It is shown for more detail as follows;

1) Nuclear Family Households.

By definition it refers to

- (a) Households comprising the head of household and spouse only. The number of household is 172,122 (5% of total households) for both sexes comprising 158,598 male-headed households and 13,524 female-headed households in 2013. The male-headed households are in majority among them.
- (b) Households comprising the head of household, spouse and unmarried children, the number of household is 1,574,370 (50% of total households) for both sexes comprising 1,455,017 male-heads and 119,353 female-heads. The male-heads are in majority among them.
- (c) Households consisting of a parent (widowed or divorced/separated) and unmarried children. The 2013 survey obtained the number of this category of 23,675 (1% of total households) for both sexes comprising 17,137 male-heads and 6,538 female-heads. The male-heads are in majority among them.

2) Extended Family Households.

These households refer to the households consisting of a nuclear family as well as parents, or married children or other related members. In 2013, these households are 128,965 (4% of total households) for both sexes comprising 120,722 male-heads and 8,242 female-heads. The male-heads are in majority among them.

3) Other Relative Households

These households refer to the households consisting of the head of household and members related to the head, but not included the categories above mentioned. In 2013 these households are 832,507 (26% of total households) for both sexes comprising 489,839 male-heads and 342,668 female-heads. The female-heads other relative households accounts for 42% of total other-relative households.

B. One-person households.

It refers to household of a person of the two sexes with the marital status of single, divorced, widowed and separated living economically active or inactive. In CIPS 2013, the number of “one-person household” is 115,125 (4% of total households) for both sexes comprising 28,451 male heads and 86,674 female heads. It is to be noted that female-headed households are in majority among “one-person household.”

C. Non-Relative Households

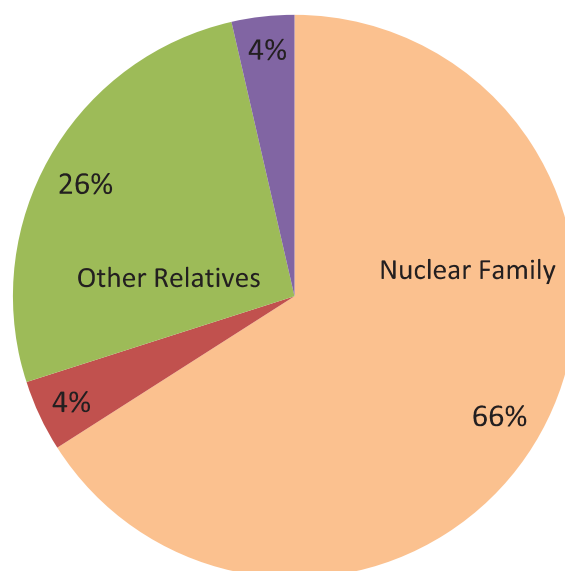
By definition, these households refer to the households consisting of the head of household and members unrelated to the head. In 2013 these households are only 686 (0%).

Observing family composition according to male-headed and female-headed households, the proportion of nuclear family is 72 percent for male-headed and 49 percent for female-headed, while proportion of other relatives are 21 percent and 40 percent, extended family are 5 percent and 1 percent, and one-person household is 1 percent and 10 percent for total male-headed and female-headed households, respectively. It is noted that nuclear and extended family are in majority for male-headed household, while other relatives and one-person are in majority for female-headed household.

Figure 3.1 presents family composition of households. It is recorded that nuclear family accounted for 66 percent and other relatives account for 26 percent, while both one-person household and extended family was relatively very small (4%).

Figure 3.1 Family Composition of Households, 2013

■ Nuclear Family
 ■ Extended Family
 ■ Other Relatives
 ■ One-person



3.2.2 Family Composition of Households by Province

Table 3.2 presents the normal households by family composition and province. In every province, the relative households, particularly nuclear family are in majority. Phnom Penh has the least share of the relative households (58.8 percent), in contrast Mondul Kiri has the greatest (77.9 percent) in 2013. The proportion of other relative households in Phnom Penh is the highest among provinces (37.0 percent), in contrast Mondul Kiri has the smallest (14.8 percent). There are unexpectedly few an extended family. The proportion of an extended family is distributed between 2.3 percent in Otdar Meanchey at the minimum and 5.5 percent in Takeo at the maximum. The proportion of non-relative households is less than 0.8 percent (Kep) in most provinces. The proportion of one-person household is distributed between 1.3 percent in Phnom Penh at the minimum and 5.7 percent in Kampot at the maximum. Such an unexpected few one-person household and a high proportion of other relative households in Phnom Penh reminds of housing and socioeconomic problems. The close kinship among Cambodian society might result in the high proportion of other relative households in Phnom Penh.

Province	Total Normal Household	Total Normal Household					
		Relative Households	Relative Households			One person	Non-Relative
			Nuclear Family	Extended Family	Other relatives		
Cambodia	100.0	96.3	65.9	4.1	26.3	3.6	0.0
Banteay Meanchey	100.0	96.0	65.9	4.8	25.3	4.0	0.0
Battambang	100.0	96.0	62.1	3.9	30.0	4.0	0.0
Kampong Cham	100.0	96.2	66.2	4.9	25.2	3.8	0.0
Kampong Chhnang	100.0	94.8	71.4	4.4	18.9	5.2	0.0
Kampong Speu	100.0	96.9	69.5	4.4	23.0	3.1	0.1
Kampong Thom	100.0	96.9	66.5	4.3	26.1	3.0	0.1
Kampot	100.0	94.3	69.1	3.1	22.1	5.7	0.0
Kandal	100.0	96.0	66.3	4.8	24.9	4.0	0.0
Koh Kong	100.0	97.2	73.9	3.2	20.1	2.5	0.2
Kratie	100.0	97.2	69.5	5.2	22.5	2.7	0.1
Mondul Kiri	100.0	96.1	77.9	3.4	14.8	3.4	0.5
Phnom Penh	100.0	98.7	58.8	3.0	37.0	1.3	0.0
Preah Vihear	100.0	98.3	74.3	5.5	18.5	1.7	0.0
Prey Veng	100.0	94.6	61.1	3.7	29.8	5.4	0.0
Pursat	100.0	96.3	75.4	2.9	18.0	3.7	0.0
Ratanak Kiri	100.0	97.8	70.5	3.8	23.6	1.9	0.3
Siem Reap	100.0	96.5	64.5	2.7	29.3	3.5	0.0
Preah Sihanouk	100.0	97.7	65.7	3.7	28.3	2.3	0.0
Stung Treng	100.0	98.2	66.6	4.9	26.8	1.7	0.1
Svay Rieng	100.0	95.6	68.4	4.0	23.1	4.4	0.0
Takeo	100.0	95.4	66.3	5.5	23.6	4.6	0.0
Otdar Meanchey	100.0	97.6	74.0	2.3	21.2	2.3	0.1
Kep	100.0	96.6	68.7	4.9	23.0	2.7	0.8
Pailin	100.0	96.2	73.8	2.9	19.6	3.7	0.1

Table 3.3 presents the normal households by family composition by sex and province. Female-headed households is characterized by relatively lower proportion of nuclear family and higher proportion of other relatives and “one-person household”, compared to male-headed households. The proportion of nuclear family is distributed between 65.8 percent in Phnom Penh and 83.2 percent in Pursat for male-headed households, while that for female-headed households is distributed between 38.2 percent in Battambang and 64.7 percent in Prea Vihear, The highest proportion of extended family is 7.7 percent in Takeo for male headed households, and 3.4 percent in Preah Sihanouk for female headed households. The highest proportion of other relative family is 29.7 percent (Phnom Penh) for male-headed households and 53.2 percent (Phnom Penh) for female headed households. The highest proportion of one-person family is 2.5 percent (Kampot) for male-headed households and 17.8 percent (Kampong Chhnang) for female headed households. This result shows the different family composition between male-headed and female-headed households and among provinces.

Table 3.3 Percent of Normal Households by Family Composition, Sex and Province, 2013												
Province	Total Normal Male-headed Household						Total Normal Female-headed Household					
	Relative Households	Relative Households			One person	Non-Relative	Relative Households	Relative Households			One person	Non-Relative
		Nuclear Family	Extended Family	Other relatives				Nuclear Family	Extended Family	Other relatives		
Cambodia	98.8	72.3	5.2	21.2	1.2	0.0	89.8	48.9	1.0	40.0	10.1	0.0
Banteay Meanchey	98.8	71.1	6.0	21.7	1.2	0.0	85.4	45.8	0.4	39.2	14.6	0.0
Battambang	98.2	69.8	4.9	23.5	1.8	0.0	89.1	38.2	0.7	50.2	10.9	0.0
Kampong Cham	99.1	71.6	6.3	21.1	0.9	0.0	89.1	52.5	1.3	35.3	10.9	0.0
Kampong Chhnang	98.5	78.1	5.7	14.6	1.5	0.0	82.2	49.1	0.0	33.1	17.8	0.0
Kampong Speu	99.3	77.7	5.0	16.6	0.7	0.0	91.0	50.2	3.0	37.8	8.7	0.3
Kampong Thom	99.1	71.4	5.6	22.0	0.9	0.0	90.4	51.5	0.3	38.6	9.3	0.3
Kampot	97.5	75.7	4.0	17.8	2.5	0.0	84.5	49.1	0.3	35.1	15.5	0.0
Kandal	98.3	72.6	6.0	19.6	1.7	0.0	89.2	47.9	1.3	40.0	10.8	0.0
Koh Kong	98.5	78.7	3.4	16.4	1.2	0.3	93.7	60.7	2.4	30.5	6.3	0.0
Kratie	99.1	74.0	6.3	18.7	0.9	0.0	88.4	48.2	0.0	40.1	11.1	0.5
Mondul Kiri	97.7	81.8	3.4	12.4	1.9	0.5	89.4	61.2	3.4	24.8	10.1	0.5
Phnom Penh	99.4	65.8	3.9	29.7	0.6	0.0	97.2	43.0	1.0	53.2	2.8	0.0
Preah Vihear	99.2	76.7	6.7	15.8	0.8	0.0	94.7	64.7	0.7	29.3	5.3	0.0
Prey Veng	98.6	68.3	5.4	24.9	1.4	0.0	86.8	47.0	0.3	39.5	13.2	0.0
Pursat	99.1	83.2	3.7	12.2	0.9	0.0	88.3	53.5	0.5	34.2	11.7	0.0
Ratanak Kiri	98.6	72.0	4.1	22.5	1.2	0.2	93.6	61.7	2.1	29.8	5.9	0.5
Siem Reap	98.9	71.4	3.5	24.0	1.1	0.0	89.3	43.9	0.4	45.0	10.7	0.0
Preah Sihanouk	98.8	68.2	3.8	26.8	1.2	0.0	95.7	61.1	3.4	31.2	4.3	0.0
Stung Treng	98.9	69.0	5.8	24.1	1.0	0.1	95.6	57.2	1.4	37.0	4.4	0.0
Svay Rieng	99.0	76.6	5.4	17.0	1.0	0.0	86.6	46.7	0.5	39.3	13.4	0.0
Takeo	98.2	71.7	7.7	18.8	1.8	0.0	89.7	55.4	1.1	33.2	10.3	0.0
Otdar Meanchey	98.8	78.7	2.8	17.3	1.2	0.0	93.5	58.9	0.7	33.8	6.1	0.4
Kep	98.6	74.1	6.2	18.2	0.8	0.6	89.3	49.0	0.0	40.3	9.4	1.3
Pailin	98.0	77.5	3.3	17.1	2.0	0.1	86.4	52.2	0.6	33.6	13.6	0.0

Map 3 shows the proportion of “one-person household.” It is found that the proportions are unexpectedly low in Phnom Penh, and expectedly low in Ratanak Kiri, Stung Treng and Preah Vihear located at national boundary, in contrast Kandal, Svay Rieng and Prey Veng where located near Phnom Penh, have high proportions of “one-person household.”

Map 4 shows the proportion of nuclear family household. It is found that the proportions are higher in Mondul Kiri, Pursat and Preah Vihear, in contrast the proportion is lower in Phnom Penh, due to the high proportion of “other relative household” in Phnom Penh.