

Chapter 4 Demographic and Socioeconomic Characteristics of Household Heads

Traditionally in the Cambodian Custom, the head of a normal household is the person generally acknowledged as such by other members of the household. The head is normally the oldest male or female in the member, the main income earner, the owner-occupier of the house or the person who manages the affairs of the household. He/She could be a powerful religious and customary advisor in a household. He/She could be a non-economically active persons. Sometimes, the village people called him/her as daddy or mammy. In some ceremonies like the wedding in the religious part the village people follows his/her recommendations.

4.1 Age Composition of Household Heads

4.1.1 Household Heads by Sex and Age

Table 4.1 presents the number of household heads in absolute numbers and percentages by age group starting at 10 and over and sex. Figures 4.1 presents the population pyramids of household heads in 2008 and 2013, respectively. The majority of household heads was situated at the age group 40-49 for male-headed and 50-59 for female-headed in 2013, five years older than that in 2008 for both males and females heads. The male household heads have higher proportions than female household heads at most age groups.

Figure 3.2 presents the population pyramid of household heads in urban and rural areas in 2013, respectively. Same tendency as the national case that male household heads have higher proportions than female household heads was found in both urban and rural areas. There is less male heads in urban area at 45 years old or younger than male heads in rural area, however the situation reverses at 45 years old and over. The female household heads in urban area have higher proportions than female household heads in rural area. It is considered that the low headship rate for women is related with the status of women in rural area.

Table 4.1 Number and Percent Distribution of Normal Household Heads by Sex and Age Group: 1998, 2008, 2013

Age Group	Number of Normal Household Heads									Sex ratio		
	1998			2008			2013					
	Both Sexes	Males	Females	Both Sexes	Males	Females	Both Sexes	Males	Females	1998	2008	2013
10 and over	2,162,086	1,606,303	555,783	2,817,637	2,096,518	721,119	3,163,226	2,306,765	856,462	289	291	269
10-14	2,675	1,220	1,455	5,289	2,457	2,832	2,130	907	1,223	84	87	74
15 - 19	22,337	12,271	10,066	22,425	11,637	10,788	16,492	7,834	8,658	122	108	90
20 - 24	111,443	88,762	22,681	138,292	105,390	32,902	99,900	75,533	24,366	391	320	310
25 - 29	287,566	240,636	46,930	336,000	279,480	56,520	271,644	221,573	50,071	513	494	443
30 - 34	329,684	269,986	59,698	279,531	231,416	48,115	403,805	329,281	74,524	452	481	442
35 - 39	334,331	264,683	69,648	398,419	324,945	73,474	316,859	260,030	56,829	380	442	458
40 - 44	241,090	171,554	69,536	372,245	290,415	81,830	405,771	315,129	90,641	247	355	348
45 - 49	223,624	155,421	68,203	351,276	262,236	89,040	407,040	303,768	103,272	228	295	294
50 - 54	178,200	119,104	59,096	261,725	174,145	87,580	367,058	259,440	107,618	202	199	241
55 - 59	149,596	98,601	50,995	223,339	145,535	77,804	279,656	177,551	102,105	193	187	174
60 - 64	114,464	74,297	40,167	160,850	102,288	58,562	229,796	140,009	89,786	185	175	156
65 - 69	85,032	55,970	29,062	120,375	75,772	44,603	160,396	95,151	65,244	193	170	146
70 - 74	47,993	31,595	16,398	77,798	47,895	29,903	106,081	61,855	44,226	193	160	140
75 and over	34,051	22,203	11,848	70,073	42,907	27,166	96,599	58,701	37,898	187	158	155
Mean Age	42.5	41.4	45.6	44.4	43.2	47.8	46.5	45.1	50.2			

Table 4.1 Number and Percent Distribution of Normal Household Heads by Sex and Age Group: 1998, 2008, 2013

										(Continued)
Age Group	Percent of Normal Household Heads									
	1998			2008			2013			
	Both Sexes	Males	Females	Both Sexes	Males	Females	Both Sexes	Males	Females	
10 and over	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
10-14	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.1	0.0	0.1	
15 - 19	1.0	0.8	1.8	0.8	0.6	1.5	0.5	0.3	1.0	
20 - 24	5.2	5.5	4.1	4.9	5.0	4.6	3.2	3.3	2.8	
25 - 29	13.3	15.0	8.4	11.9	13.3	7.8	8.6	9.6	5.8	
30 - 34	15.2	16.8	10.7	9.9	11.0	6.7	12.8	14.3	8.7	
35 - 39	15.5	16.5	12.5	14.1	15.5	10.2	10.0	11.3	6.6	
40 - 44	11.2	10.7	12.5	13.2	13.9	11.3	12.8	13.7	10.6	
45 - 49	10.3	9.7	12.3	12.5	12.5	12.3	12.9	13.2	12.1	
50 - 54	8.2	7.4	10.6	9.3	8.3	12.1	11.6	11.2	12.6	
55 - 59	6.9	6.1	9.2	7.9	6.9	10.8	8.8	7.7	11.9	
60 - 64	5.3	4.6	7.2	5.7	4.9	8.1	7.3	6.1	10.5	
65 - 69	3.9	3.5	5.2	4.3	3.6	6.2	5.1	4.1	7.6	
70 - 74	2.2	2.0	3.0	2.8	2.3	4.1	3.4	2.7	5.2	
75 and over	1.6	1.4	2.1	2.5	2.0	3.8	3.1	2.5	4.4	

Figure 4.1 Population Pyramid of Household Heads, 2008, 2013

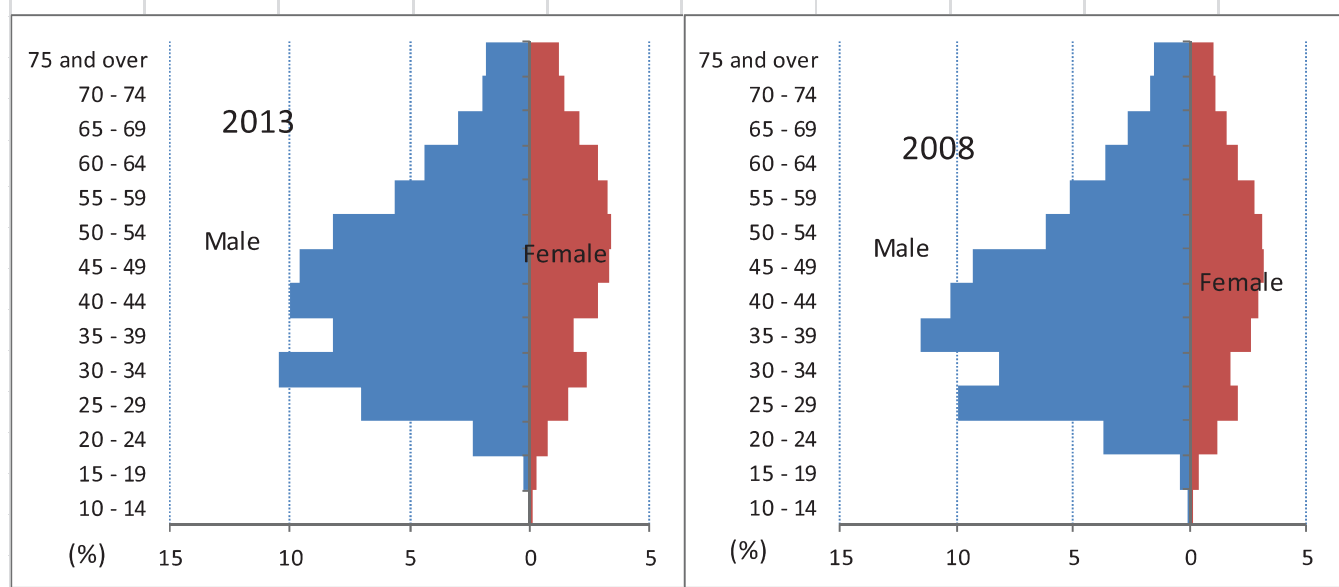
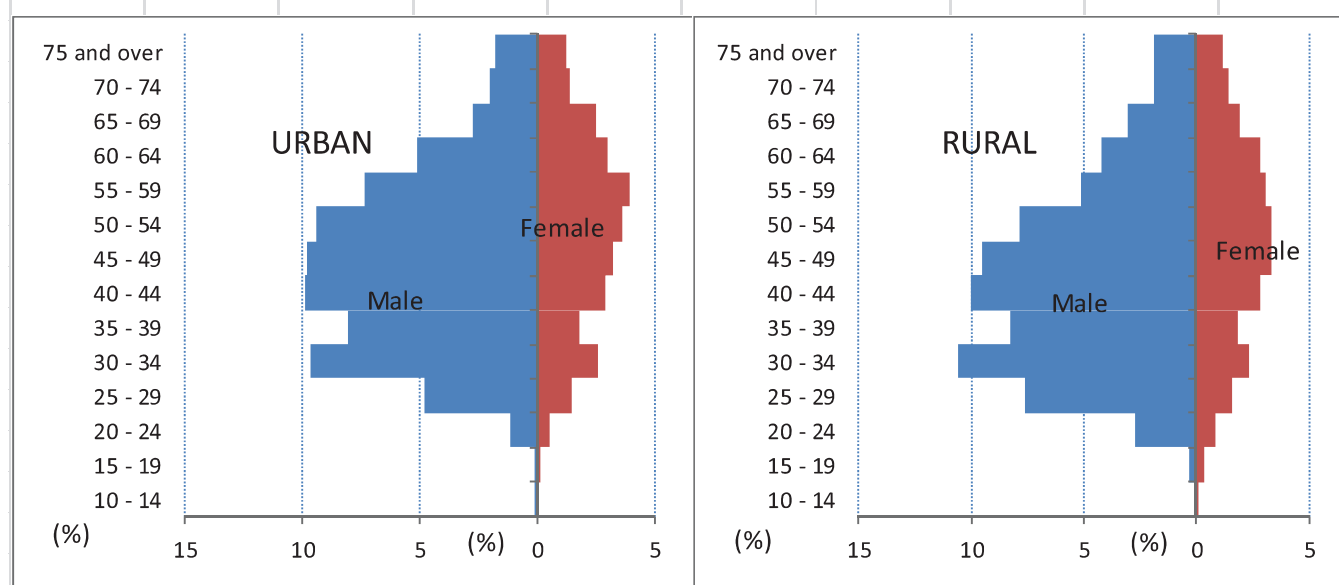


Figure 4.2 Population Pyramid of Household Heads, Urban/Rural, 2013



4.1.2 Mean Age of Normal Household Heads by Sex

Table 4.2 presents the mean age of household heads by sex and household size. The mean age of household heads by sex was worked out by taking the middle of each age group multiply with the number household head and divide the summation by total number of each households. The mean age of household heads as of 2013 is older than the age of 2008, 46.5 years old versus 44.4 years old. The mean age of male household heads is younger than that for females in both 2008 and 2013 (45.1 for males and 50.2 for females in 2013, 43.2 for males and 47.8 for females in 2008). There is a tendency that the age of household head becomes older with household size 4 persons and over, irrespective of sex. It should be noted that the mean age of male household heads is younger than that of female household heads irrespective of household size. The mean age of one-person female household head is 57.3 years old in

2013. This may be related to widowhood in the household with empty nest. The mean age of two-persons for both male and female heads is younger than the mean age of 3 persons and more persons, it may be related to the household with empty nest which child leaves the nest.

Table 4.2 Mean Age of Normal Household Heads by Sex and Household Size, 2008, 2013											
										(unit: years)	
Household Size	2008			2013			Difference of Age, 2013-2008			Difference (M-F)	
	Both Sexes	Males	Females	Both Sexes	Males	Females	Both Sexes	Males	Females	2008	2013
Total	44.4	43.2	47.8	46.5	45.1	50.2	2.1	2.0	2.4	-4.7	-5.1
1	49.8	41.1	53.6	54.8	47.1	57.3	4.9	6.0	3.6	-12.5	-10.1
2	46.8	45.3	48.5	50.6	50.3	51.1	3.8	5.0	2.5	-3.3	-0.8
3	41.3	39.3	45.9	43.5	41.7	47.2	2.2	2.4	1.3	-6.6	-5.5
4	41.7	40.5	45.8	43.2	42.0	47.6	1.5	1.5	1.8	-5.3	-5.6
5	43.8	43.0	47.1	45.7	44.8	49.5	1.9	1.8	2.5	-4.0	-4.7
6	45.5	45.0	48.0	48.0	47.3	51.0	2.5	2.3	3.0	-3.0	-3.7
7	46.7	46.3	48.8	49.5	49.0	52.0	2.8	2.6	3.2	-2.5	-3.1
8	47.8	47.5	49.5	50.7	50.0	53.7	2.9	2.5	4.2	-2.0	-3.7
9	48.7	48.5	50.1	52.6	52.0	54.9	3.8	3.5	4.8	-1.6	-3.0
10 or more	50.2	50.0	51.3	52.8	51.9	56.6	2.6	1.9	5.2	-1.3	-4.7
Note: Difference (M-F) shows the difference of age between male heads and female heads.											

Table 4.3 Mean Age of Normal Household Heads by Sex and Urban/Rural, 2008, 2013											
	Household Heads, 2008			Household Heads, 2013			Difference of Age, 2013-2008			Difference (M-F)	
	Both Sexes	Males	Females	Both Sexes	Males	Females	Both Sexes	Males	Females	2008	2013
Total	44.4	43.2	47.8	46.5	45.1	50.2	2.1	2.0	2.4	-4.7	-5.1
Urban	45.0	44.1	47.5	48.1	46.8	51.2	3.0	2.7	3.8	-3.4	-4.4
Rural	44.2	43.0	47.9	46.1	44.7	49.9	1.9	1.7	2.0	-4.9	-5.2
Difference between Urban and Rural											
	0.8	1.1	-0.4	2.0	2.1	1.3					

Table 4.3 presents the mean age of household heads by sex and urban/rural areas. The mean age of household heads in urban area is older than those in rural area, irrespective of sex. The mean age of household heads as of 2013 is older than the age of 2008 in both urban and rural areas. The mean age of female household heads is older than the age of male household head in both urban and rural area, irrespective of years

4.1.3 Mean Age of Normal Household Heads by Province

Table 4.4 presents mean age of household heads by sex and province in 2013. The mean age of male-heads ranges 40.3 years old in Mondul Kiri to 47.3 years old in Kandal, in contrast the mean age of female-heads ranges 42.1 years old in Mondul Kiri to 53.5 years old in Kandal. The mean age of male heads was younger than that for female heads for most provinces except Prea Sihanouk. The large difference of mean ages between male and female heads was found in Kep (7.8), followed by Kampong Chhang (7.4). As to the mean age of household heads by household size and province, please refer Annex Table 11.

Table 4.4 Mean Age of Normal Household Heads by Sex, Province, 2013							
							(unit = years)
Province	Male-head	Female-head	Difference (F-M)	Province	Male-head	Female-head	Difference (F-M)
Cambodia	45.1	50.2	5.1				
Banteay Meanchey	46.3	52.5	6.2	Preah Vihear	41.6	44.1	2.5
Battambang	45.9	51.1	5.1	Prey Veng	45.9	48.8	3.0
Kampong Cham	45.8	49.8	4.0	Pursat	43.5	50.8	7.3
Kampong Chhnang	44.3	51.7	7.4	Ratanak Kiri	40.9	42.8	1.9
Kampong Speu	43.4	49.0	5.6	Siem Reap	42.8	49.8	7.0
Kampong Thom	43.1	48.9	5.8	Preah Sihanouk	46.9	44.9	-2.0
Kampot	45.0	50.8	5.8	Stung Treng	42.3	45.6	3.4
Kandal	47.3	53.5	6.2	Svay Rieng	44.7	51.1	6.5
Koh Kong	43.6	46.8	3.2	Takeo	45.4	50.7	5.3
Kratie	44.6	49.4	4.7	Otdar Meanchey	41.9	45.3	3.4
Mondul Kiri	40.3	42.1	1.8	Kep	43.6	51.4	7.8
Phnom Penh	47.3	51.7	4.4	Pailin	43.7	48.6	4.9
Minimum	40.3	42.1	1.8				
Maximum	47.3	53.5	6.2				
Mean	44.2	48.8	4.6				
Note: Difference(F-M) means the difference of mean age between male-heads and female heads.							

4.1.4 Headship Rates by Sex and Age Group

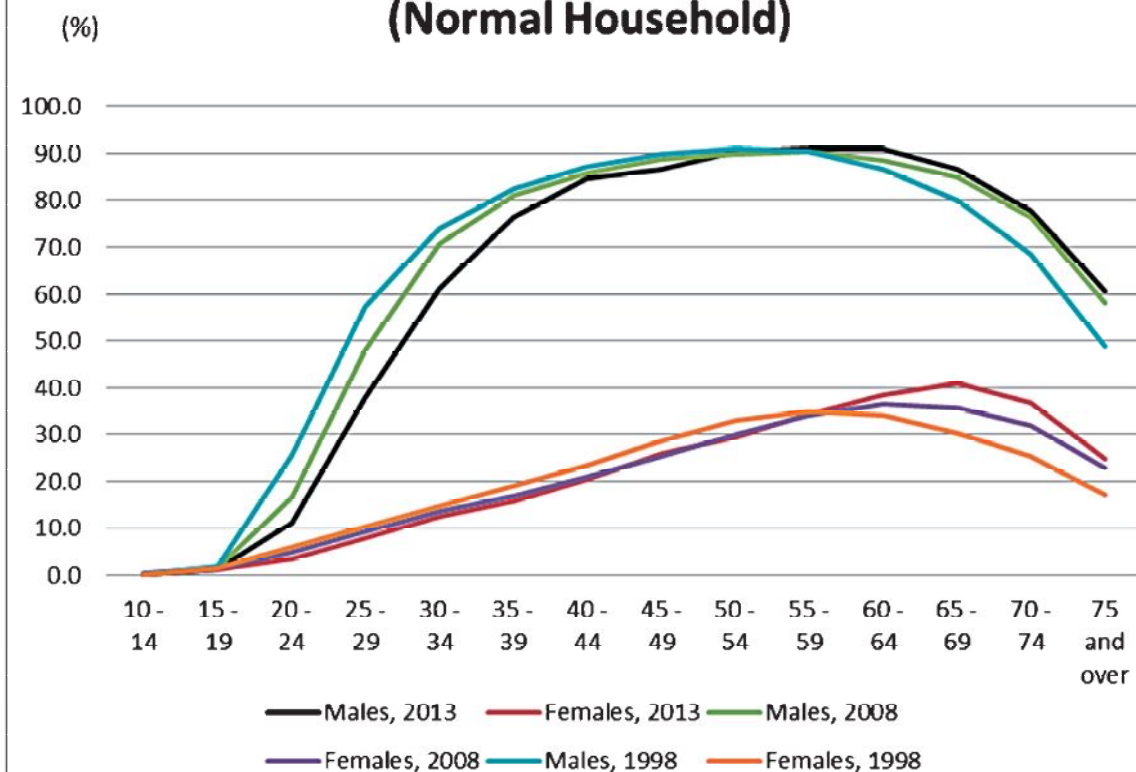
The “age-specific headship rates”, which is the proportion of normal household heads in a given age group to the total number of persons in the same age group is shown in Table 4.5. These rates are primarily used in the preparation of household projections, which in turn serves as an input to estimating future housing needs and other socio-economic facilities. Table 4.5 provides the headship rates for Cambodia and urban and rural residence by sex and age group, comparing the number of male heads and female heads aged 10 years and above to the number of male population and the number of female population of the same age. It is found that the male headship rates from 10-14 to 45-49 age group as of 2013 are lower than that of male headship rates as of 2008. The female headship rates from 10-14 to 40-44 age group in 2013 are also lower than that of female headship rates in 2008. It is to be noted that in both census and survey, male headship rates were predominantly higher than female headship rates for all age group. The male headship rates present the highest at ages 55-59, while for females, the highest age is 65-69. At the ages of 60-64 and over for males, and the ages of 70-74 and over for females, the rates declines with increase in age. Figure 4.3 clearly shows the above mentioned tendency for the headship rates by sex and age group.

Table 4.5 Age-specific Headship Rates by Sex and Age Group, Urban/Rural, 2008, 2013 (Normal Household)

Age Group	Total, 2008			Total, 2013			Urban, 2013			Rural, 2013		
	Both Sexes	Males	Females	Both Sexes	Males	Females	Both Sexes	Males	Females	Both Sexes	Males	Females
10 and over	27.2	42.5	13.3	27.8	42.7	14.1	25.4	38.0	13.7	28.5	44.1	14.3
10 - 14	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.2
15 - 19	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.2	1.1	1.3	0.5	0.5	0.5	1.4	1.3	1.5
20 - 24	10.6	16.6	4.9	7.2	11.0	3.4	3.2	4.4	2.0	8.4	12.9	3.9
25 - 29	28.0	47.9	9.2	22.8	37.9	7.9	13.3	21.4	5.8	25.8	42.9	8.7
30 - 34	41.0	70.8	13.6	35.8	61.2	12.4	26.0	43.3	10.2	39.3	67.4	13.2
35 - 39	47.7	81.0	16.9	45.5	76.4	15.7	38.9	61.7	14.6	47.5	81.2	16.0
40 - 44	51.0	85.6	20.9	49.9	84.5	20.3	42.5	72.2	17.5	52.2	88.3	21.2
45 - 49	54.2	88.8	25.2	54.7	86.5	25.9	51.6	78.8	24.8	55.5	88.8	26.2
50 - 54	53.7	89.9	29.9	56.3	90.3	29.4	55.6	88.9	28.0	56.5	90.7	29.7
55 - 59	57.5	90.5	34.2	56.8	90.9	34.2	60.1	90.8	36.8	55.7	91.0	33.5
60 - 64	58.4	88.6	36.6	59.5	90.9	38.6	60.5	89.0	39.1	59.3	91.6	38.4
65 - 69	56.1	84.8	35.6	59.6	86.6	40.8	61.9	81.4	48.9	59.0	88.0	38.7
70 - 74	49.6	76.3	31.8	53.2	77.8	36.8	57.3	82.0	39.4	52.2	76.7	36.2
75 and over	36.4	58.0	22.9	38.8	60.5	24.9	43.5	68.9	28.6	37.8	58.8	24.1

Note: The age-specific headship rate is the proportion of normal household heads in a given age group to the total number of persons in the same age group.

Figure 4.3 Age-specific Headship Rates by Sex and Age Group, 1998, 2008 and 2013 (Normal Household)



Male headship rates in urban areas are lower than male headship rates in rural area at all ages in 2013. In contrast, female headship rates in urban area are lower than that in rural area from 10-14 to 50-54 age groups. It might be due to early marriage in rural area and housing situation in urban area might relate the difference of age of headship rates between urban and rural areas (Table 4.5).

4.1.5 Headship Rates by Province

The male and female headship status are affected by local custom of the region, therefore, male and female headship rates differs by province. It is no question that the male headship rates are higher than the female headship rates in all provinces. The insight analysis of each province provides more information (see Annex Table 12).

Table 4.6 shows the provinces which have the highest and lowest headship rates by sex in 1998, 2008 and 2013. The province with highest headship rate for female is Prey Veng in both 2008 and 2013, while the provinces with lowest headship rate for males are Mondul Kiri in 2008, Kratie in 2013. While, the provinces with lowest headship rate for males are Phnom Penh in 2008, Preah Sihanouk in 2013, those for females are Ratanak Kiri in both 2008 and 2013.

Table 4.6 Headship Rates by Sex in Selected Povinces, 1998, 2008, 2013 (Normal Household)						
Year	2013		2008		1998	
Sex	Province	Headship Rate(%)	Province	Headship Rate(%)	Province	Headship Rate(%)
The Highest Headship Rate						
Both Sexes	Prey Veng	30.6	Prey Veng	30.8	Svay Rieng	28.8
Males	Kratie	48.6	Mondul Kiri	48.2	Ratanak Kiri	46.2
Females	Prey Veng	18.5	Prey Veng	20.1	Pailin	18.1
The Lowest Headship Rate(%)						
Both Sexes	Phnom Penh	24.4	Phnom Penh	23.3	Phnom Penh	21.1
Males	Preah Sihanouk	33.3	Phnom Penh	35.8	Pailin	30.1
Females	Ratanak Kiri	7.8	Ratanak Kiri	6.0	Ratanak Kiri	6.2

4.2 Socio Economic Characteristics of Household Heads

4.2.1 Marital Status of Normal Household Heads

In Cambodian society the majority of reproduction takes place only in wedlock. Marriage is an important fertility indicator for most Cambodian women. About the Cambodian marriage, the singulate mean age at first marriage for males and females are 26.2 and 23.7 in 2013, respectively. The marital status distribution of household heads by sex and age group has been shown in Annex Table 13. The proportion of “never married” is 1.1 percent and 6.9 percent for male and female heads, respectively. The proportion of “Married” for male heads is 96.6 percent, and higher than the corresponding proportion of females (48.7 percent). The proportion of “widowed” is 1.7 percent and 33.8 percent for male and female heads, and the proportion of “divorced and separated” are 0.5 percent and 10.5 percent for male and female heads, respectively. The position for female household heads is reversed in the three marital status categories: widowed, divorced and separated. Higher proportions of widowed for female household heads seems that they have not remarried once they had lost their husbands or got divorced.