

# Child and family care in Mekong SEZs

# Childcare of garment factory workers

Childcare responsibilities	Thilawa SEZ	Phnom Penh SEZ	Manhattan SEZ	Tak SEZ
Women themselves	50%	5.2%	13% (local) 40% (migrant)	41%
Women respondent followed by mother	50%	87%	20% (local) 44% (migrant)	35%

- “I think once workers have children, it is difficult for them. With children it is hard for them to do overtime. For childcare, those who live with their parents ask them to take care of their children. Those who don’t have this have to quit their job.” (Su Su, Thilawa SEZ)
- “I want my employer to build a childcare place because it’s comfortable for women workers who have children” (Jariya, Phnom Penh SEZ)
- “There is no breastfeeding room in the factory, and there is no provision for lactating mothers to leave work early. There is no childcare centre. If the factory near my village re-opens, I would like to move there.” (Sophorn, Manhattan SEZ)

# Care for other family members

Remittances	Thilawa SEZ	Phnom Penh SEZ	Manhattan SEZ	Tak SEZ
Remit	>40%	96%	50% (local) 96% (migrant)	>70%
% of annual income	43%	>40%	15% (local) 30% (migrant)	>40%

Care for family members – mostly done by women relatives (e.g. sisters)  
More women respondent said that they go back home to look after elderly parents.

One woman came back from Bangkok to look after her mother in Mae Sot – pay became 1/4-1/3.

# Recommendation

- Functioning childcare facilities in workplace
  - In Myanmar and Cambodia, it is required by law
- Community support for childcare
  - Migration status for care providers in Thailand
  - Childcare in the community
- Care for the elderly in community
  - Responsibilities of government and factories in place of destination for care work in place of origin.