



ANNEX 2

Safety Nets: Policies response to social protection in Cambodia

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Country review:

- ❑ Human Development Index (HDI) ranked Cambodia as 131 out of 177 countries.
- ❑ The global financial crisis hit Cambodia on many fronts by soaring food prices severely affected the poor and the vulnerable;
- ❑ It may also lead to an increase in child labor and consequent decrease in school attendance (*ADB: Protection Cambodia's Most vulnerable from Food Crisis*);
- ❑ Cambodia spends less on social protection, compared to other countries in the regional (*Prom Tola, Cambodia country report, 2007*).

Legal framework of Social Protection in Cambodia

- The fundamentals of social protection for Cambodian enshrine in the constitution (article 36, 46, 72 and 75)
- Labor Law-give priority to improving working conditions for workers and employees (1998);
- Implement benefit and pension schemes for people with disabilities and the dependents (2002);
- Insurance Law (2000), provides a legal framework for better regulation of insurance market activities;
- NSDP (2006–2010), Rectangular Strategy, NPRS and CMDGs and others. (*Prom Tola, Cambodia Country Report, Nov 2007*)

What Is Safety Nets?

- ❖ Programs that benefits to the poor and most vulnerable and are part of social protection strategy that includes policies for **health, education, social insurance, and affordable credit and saving schemes.**
- ❖ A form of case transfers (conditional or unconditional);
- ❖ In kind transfers (eg. school feeding program or mother/child supplementations programs);
- ❖ Labor intensive public works schemes (food or cash for work);
- ❖ Or exemptions from fees for essential services(eg. healthcare or schooling). (*Draft country review paper: Implementation in Asia and the Pacific of the BPoA LDC for the Decade 2001–2010, 18–20 January 2010, Silaka*)

Existing safety Nets in Cambodia

- **Health Equity Funds (HEF):** 40 operational districts (OD) have been provided free medical assistance to the poor people;
- **Food Emergency Program:** In 200 communes received in-kind assistance (35kg rice ratios) in the 8 provinces surrounding Tonle Sap Lake;
- **Food for work (FFW):** In 2007, The FFW constructed/rehabilitated 333km of rural roads, 267Km of irrigation canals, and constructed 52Km of dikes, 15 community ponds, and 7 rice banks;
- **Mother and Child Health program (MCH):** Distributed to the poor and vulnerabilities the food ratio consist of fortified corn soy blend, rice, vitamin enriched vegetable oil, and sugar;

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(Cont.)

- **School feeding programs:** The programs currently reach about 500, 000 student and supplementary food and nutrition programs for mothers and children;
- **Targeted scholarship programs:** For secondary education students (especially girls) from poor households in selected provinces (reaching almost 29, 000 student in 2008);
- **National Social Security Fund:** In mid-2008, established to provide protection to government employees;
- **Pre-paid health insurance scheme:** A number of NGOs, with the support of the government, piloted pre-paid health insurance scheme for rural households.

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Problems and challenges

- Formal social assistance or social insurance are too costly;
- Lack of trusts for insurance for a large majority of people;
- Natural disaster and price fluctuations;
- Existing interventions are largely food-based, and exclude some vulnerable groups;
- Programs implemented by development Partners, leaving concerns of sustainability;
- Lack of government body for implementing safety net policies and programs;
- No systematic and integrated social safety strategy.

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Thank you for your attention!

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