

Concept Note
Workshop on “Unite for Inclusive Social Protection System in Cambodia”
Date: 13th September 2023 (08:30 AM – 12:00 PM)

Venue: TBC

(Draft)

Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic had a tremendous impact on public health globally, particularly in developing countries. By April 2023, there has been 762.27 million cases of infection cases and 6.89 million deaths worldwide¹. In the last decade, there was not only the COVID-19 pandemic, but there have been other global pandemics as well, such as SARS, Ebola, and other diseases. Furthermore, the world will suffer from the climate crisis which is considered a health crisis. For instance, air pollution kills an estimated 7 million people every year, while climate change exacerbates malnutrition and fuels the spread of infectious diseases². In this century, in addition, more and more people are facing cardiovascular disease that contributes to health loss and economic burden on the health system³.

Therefore, it is necessary to strengthen the health system and social protection framework at the national level in order to create a resilient society that can address future pandemics and health crises. In 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) released a list of urgent global health challenges⁴ and called on the world government to allocate more funding to address gaps in health systems and health infrastructure, as well as provide support to the most vulnerable countries. At the global level, WHO is working to promote universal health care⁵ coverage and provide technical assistance to countries with weak health systems. This work is aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which is a 2030 global agenda.

According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), the majority of the world’s population (55 per cent) lacks any form of social protection, and around 16 per cent enjoy only partial protection. This showed that there was little investment in healthcare, unemployment, old-age pensions, or children and disability allowance. The low investment in social protection made people severely affected by the pandemic and pushed them into poverty. For this reason, ILO called on the UN to create the Global Fund for Social Protection to provide international support to recipient countries to strengthen resilience by building universal social protection⁶.

In Cambodia's context, the National Social Protection Framework (SPPF) focuses on two main pillars: Social Assistance and Social Security. This national framework is a policy tool for reducing and preventing poverty, vulnerability, and inequality in Cambodia⁷ which is aligned with the Cambodian Sustainable Development Goals (CSDGs) and National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP). Furthermore, the social protection system and expanding healthcare services towards universal health coverage are included in the priority policy program of the Royal Government of Cambodia in Term 7. This commitment needs a strong investment and political will, inclusive policies and a robust system, an effective monitoring system, and particularly the participation from key stakeholders.

¹ https://www.jica.go.jp/Resource/english/news/field/2023/20230518_11.html

² <https://www.who.int/news-room/photo-story/photo-story-detail/urgent-health-challenges-for-the-next-decade>

³ <https://www.healthdata.org/news-events/insights-blog/acting-data/11-global-health-issues-watch-2023-according-ihme-experts>

⁴ <https://www.who.int/news-room/photo-story/photo-story-detail/urgent-health-challenges-for-the-next-decade>

⁵ Universal health coverage (UHC) means that all people have access to the full range of quality health services they need, when and where they need them, without financial hardship.

⁶ <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2021/06/world-needs-prepare-next-crisis-setting-global-fund-social-protection-now-un>

⁷ National Social Protection Policy Framework 2016-2025.

Partnerships for Sustainable and Democratic Development in Cambodia

By August 2023, NSSF has more than 3 million registered members (1.7 million women)⁸ while the Social Assistance Program reached about 690,000 households and 2.7 million individuals between 2020 and 2021⁹. These figures show significant improvement in social protection and social assistance in Cambodia which contributes to reducing poverty and inequality. However, social protection in Cambodia remains inadequate due to the low funding of social protection schemes, limited budget allocations, data management, and lack of monitoring and evaluation mechanisms in order to improve accountability, transparency, and inclusive services of the system. Furthermore, the lack of synergy between key stakeholders, including government actors, development partners, private sectors, and CSOs, is also a barrier to achieving inclusive social protection.

In contribution to addressing the above-mentioned challenges and gaps, so far, we see that the Royal Government of Cambodia has opened to work with development partners, the private sector, and CSOs to enhance the effective and inclusive social protection system through fostering dialogue and sharing best practices and challenges of the policies implementation.

Meaningful participation from all stakeholders is essential to achieve transparency, inclusive, and sustainable social protection. It is significant that all relevant stakeholders be able to understand each other, share challenges and lessons learnt from policy implementation, and provide support to beneficiaries of social protection programs in order to explore the opportunity for better collaboration and synergy in the future. For this reason, CCC will organize workshop on "**Unite for Inclusive Social Protection System in Cambodia**", which will be held on 13 September 2023, in Phnom Penh in order to provide a platform for beneficiaries to share experiences and concerns about access to health care and social protection services to decision-makers and create a dialogue platform for government, development partners, and CSOs to discuss challenges, opportunity, and the way forward towards inclusive and sustainable social protection in Cambodia.

Objectives:

- To provide an opportunity for participants to gain more understanding about the existing policies and programs related to social protection and priority policies of the government toward universal health coverage and inclusive social security and assistance programs.
- To provide a platform for beneficiaries and vulnerable groups to raise their challenges and gaps in access to social protection and assistance as well as the area of improvement to key concerned stakeholders.
- To promote mutual understanding and partnership among relevant stakeholders, including government agencies, private sectors, development partners, and civil society organizations, to maximize efforts and resources in developing and fostering inclusive social protection policies and programs in Cambodia

Participants:

The workshop is expected to have approximately 80 participants who are CCC members, CSO partners, CBOs, marginalized groups, government officials, and other relevant stakeholders.

⁸ <http://www.nssf.gov.kh/employment-injury-scheme-2/registration/>

⁹ VNR 2023 Cambodia Report.

Tentative Agenda

Time	Key Agenda	Facilitator
8:00 am - 8:30 am	Arrival of participants and registration	CCC's Team
8:30 am - 8:35 am	National Anthem and introduce the objective of the workshop	Ms. Prak Keokongkea , Legal Specialist of CCC
8:35 am - 8:50 am	Welcome speech & opening remarks	Ms. Sin Putheary , Executive Director of CCC
8:50 am - 9:00 am	Video screening: Video Case Studies on Health Care for Indigenous students and marginalized communities who immigrated to work and live in Phnom Penh.	Mr. Un Sothea , communication Officer of CCC
9:00 am - 9:20 am	Presentation on Overview of National Social Protection Framework	A representative from the National Social Protection Council (NSPC)
9:20 am - 9:50 am	Group discussion of participants: The Experiences and Challenges in Access to Social Protection and Public Health Services. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group 1: Indigenous People • Group 2: Informal Workers and poor communities • Group 3: Elder People • Group 4: People with disabilities • Group 5: Children and Youth Reporting from each group	Moderator: Mrs. Prak Keo Kongkea , Legal Specialist of CCC
9:50 am - 10:00 am	Gallery walk: Relevant SDGs Target related to Social Protection and Universal Health Coverage.	Mr. Pheng Seng , PLA Assistance and Youth Ambassador for SDGs
10:00 am - 10:20 am	Group Photos and Coffee break	CCC communication team and all Participants
10:20 am - 11:45 am	Panel discussion: United for Inclusive Social Protection System in Cambodia <i>Q & A and inputs from participants</i>	Moderator: Mr. Ny Veasna , Policy, Legal, and Advocacy Officer of CCC. Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Representatives of the National Social Protection Council – NSPC (TBC) - Representative of NSSF (TBC) - Representatives of the UNDP (TBC) - Representative of SP4All (TBC)
11:45 am - 12:00 pm	Closing Remarks	Ms. Sin Putheary , Executive Director of CCC

Note: The meeting's languages will be available in Khmer and English. The organizer reserves the right to alter the agenda depending on time constraints and the availability of speakers. Some of the pictures and key ideas will be quoted and shared in public through the organizers' social media and website. <http://www.ccc-cambodia.org/en/resources/event-archives>; www.facebook.com/CCCsine1990 www.facebook.com/CCCsine1990 www.youtube.com/CCCambodia

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