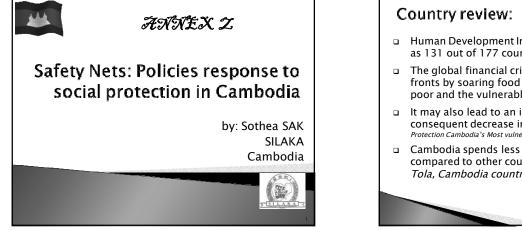
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Legal framework of Social Protection in Cambodia

- 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)

- 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).

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, 18–20 January

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;

(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 househelds.

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.

