

Foreword

In 2016 Cambodia crossed the middle-income threshold, marking the transformation from a largely agrarian economy to the latest Asian Tiger. At the same time, Cambodia recorded one of the world's most impressive declines in poverty over the past decade.

Sustaining this pace of progress will prove a formidable challenge, especially given headwinds resulting from climate change, an ageing population and global shifts in manufacturing. To accelerate socio-economic development and reduce vulnerability, the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) has established a Social Protection Policy Framework (SPPF) in 2017, outlining an ambitious vision to expand coverage and increase coherence between social assistance, social insurance and labour market schemes.

The Social Protection System Review is intended to contribute to the implementation of the SPPF. It provides analysis and recommendations to lay the foundations for a comprehensive and sustainable social protection system. This Review is the result of collaboration between the OECD and senior government officials, researchers and civil society representatives in Cambodia. The Review was supported by the European Union Social Protection Systems Programme, co-financed by the European Union, the OECD and the Government of Finland.

The Review adds to the debate on the role of social protection as an engine for human development and inclusive growth in developing countries in three important ways. First, it constitutes an effort to assess Cambodia's social protection delivery from a holistic system perspective, including social assistance, social insurance and labour market programmes. Second, it provides new empirical evidence on the dynamics of poverty and the poverty impact of social protection and fiscal policy. Third, it proposes concrete recommendations to systematise social protection, reconcile social protection and fiscal policy, and accelerate progress towards the RGC's SPPF.

We hope this study will offer new and useful ideas on the ways to anchor the extension of social protection in Cambodia in a broader human development and inclusive growth agenda, and ultimately foster Cambodia's transition towards prosperity and well-being.

Mario Pezzini
Director of the Development
Centre and Special Advisor to the
Secretary-General on Development
OECD

H.E Sokharom Lao
Secretary General
Council for Agricultural and
Rural Development
Royal Government of Cambodia

Acknowledgements

The Social Protection System Review for Cambodia was prepared by the Social Cohesion Unit of the OECD Development Centre as part of the European Union Social Protection Systems Programme.

The team was led by Alexandre Kolev, Head of the Social Cohesion Unit, under the guidance of Mario Pezzini, Director of the OECD Development Centre and Special Advisor to the OECD Secretary-General on Development. The report was drafted by Riku Elovainio, Alessandra Heinemann, Alexandre Kolev, Alexander Pick and Caroline Tassot, drawing on background papers prepared by the Economic Policy Research Institute. Justina La provided research assistance.

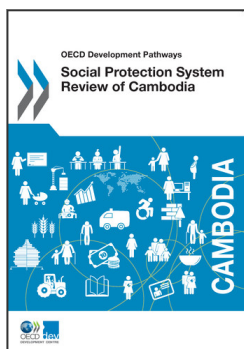
The report was reviewed by OECD colleagues Willem Adema, Karolina Kozłowska, Andrew Reilly, Prasiwi Ibrahim, and Jingjing Xia. It also benefited from valuable inputs and comments from Vathana Sann (Council for Agricultural and Rural Development), Fiona Ramsey (European Union Delegation, Cambodia), Betina Ramirez Lopez (ILO, Cambodia), Ole Doetinchem and Sabine Cerceau (GiZ Cambodia), and Jürgen Hohmann (European Commission).

The Review benefited considerably from comments received during a Policy Options Workshop held in Phnom Penh in June 2016. Participants included H.E Sun Kunthor, H.E Kim Sethany, H.E Oum Samol, H.E Sann Vathana, H.E Tin Sokkhuon, H.E Vong Sondab, H.E Laov Him, H.E Ly Savuth, H.E So Khonrithykun, Keo Ouly, Mon Chansarak, Dr. Sok Kanha, Sok Sreyleak, Mech Sochetra, Hem Makphal, Sopheak Vatey, Kong Chanthay, Suon Rasy, Hourn Darlin, Yam Vannfak, Ngeth Chonsereibandith, Betina Ramirez, Inna Sacchi, By Sokunthea, Pheakdey Sambo, Tith Sakhan, Chin Narong, Suon Nguon, Mey Yoeun, Lisa Sherburne, Ly Lengmonykeo, Say Ung, Pok Kimchoeun, Ole Doetinchem, Chea Sokha, Phorn Yoeum, Kelin Hui, Ok Malika, Marisa Foraci, Sovannarith Hang, Manny Sreysour, Pheng Sokrathna, Maki Kato, Song Chhiay, Kimsong Chea, Erica Matthehem, Uy Uyyma, Chan Theary, Ben Scholz, Mok Vichetsackda, Sok Chheang, and Chhom Sokkea.

The OECD Development Centre's publication team, led by Delphine Grandrieux, turned the draft into a publication. The cover was designed by Aida Buendía.

The European Union Social Protection Systems Programme is co-financed by the European Union, the OECD and the Government of Finland.

This publication has been produced with the assistance of the European Union and Finland. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of the OECD and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union or the Government of Finland.



From:
Social Protection System Review of Cambodia

Access the complete publication at:
<https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264282285-en>

Please cite this chapter as:

OECD (2017), “Foreword”, in *Social Protection System Review of Cambodia*, OECD Publishing, Paris.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264282285-1-en>

This work is published under the responsibility of the Secretary-General of the OECD. The opinions expressed and arguments employed herein do not necessarily reflect the official views of OECD member countries.

This document and any map included herein are without prejudice to the status of or sovereignty over any territory, to the delimitation of international frontiers and boundaries and to the name of any territory, city or area.

You can copy, download or print OECD content for your own use, and you can include excerpts from OECD publications, databases and multimedia products in your own documents, presentations, blogs, websites and teaching materials, provided that suitable acknowledgment of OECD as source and copyright owner is given. All requests for public or commercial use and translation rights should be submitted to rights@oecd.org. Requests for permission to photocopy portions of this material for public or commercial use shall be addressed directly to the Copyright Clearance Center (CCC) at info@copyright.com or the Centre français d'exploitation du droit de copie (CFC) at contact@cfcopies.com.