This "Policy Brief: Social Protection Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanism" is designed to demonstrate the process and reflect on the importance of implementing the monitoring and evaluation mechanism, which is a tool for collecting information and indicator data from relevant ministries and institutions whose roles as the reporting unit is to analyze and monitor the progress, as well as the results of, the implementation of all programs and schemes in the social protection system to ensure efficiency, effectiveness and accuracy in accordance with the goals set out in the National Social Protection Policy Framework 2016-2025.

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"National Social Protection Policy Framework 2016-2025" is the Royal Government’s long-term vision for the development of the social protection system. It builds an efficient and financially sustainable social protection system which serves as a policy tool for reducing and preventing poverty, vulnerability and inequality. It also contributes to the strengthening and broadening of human resource development as well as stimulating national economic growth.

In addition to pointing out the direction in the design and implementation of national social assistance programs and social security schemes in response to the above aspirations, this policy framework also sets out the principles of consistent, transparent governance and accountability that can be guaranteed through a specific monitoring and evaluation mechanism. This monitoring and evaluation mechanism ensures the achievement of the above objectives, as well as to monitor the progress and identify gaps in the management process of each program or scheme in the social protection system. This mechanism also serves as a tool that can ensure a check-and-balance in the implementation of various social protection programs or schemes.

**What is the Social Protection System Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanism?**

The monitoring and evaluation mechanism will build up a system for data collection for analytical purposes and program monitoring which focuses on capturing the key indicators such as coverage expansion, efficiency and quality of services collecting indicator data and information in relation to the implementation of each program and social security scheme. The mechanism is divided into input, output, outcome, principle and impact indicators in a system that incorporates perspectives that include the dimensions of social protection policy that reflect the socio-economic principles and redistribution of benefits from economic development, principles of social protection policy focusing on good governance, effectiveness, efficient spending, accountability and financial sustainability, and objectives of social protection policies which allows for expanding coverage and enhancing equity and transparency.
The Process of Selecting Indicators in the Social Protection Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanism

1. A matrix was developed to identify the indicators aligning with the Logical Framework.

2. Key national strategy and policy documents and relevant line-ministries' and institutions' strategic plans were studied and reviewed to prepare and collect indicators related to social protection.

3. International social protection institutions’ and development partners’ recommended indicators were studied and reviewed.

4. Consultative meetings were held with the line-ministries and institutions.

This selection process ensures the adequacy and consistency of the indicators, as well as the comparative of all programs or schemes within the social protection system, and minimizes the reporting schemes and the burden of reporting units, although those indicators require regular discussion and review.

The Implementation of Social Protection Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanism

The social protection monitoring and evaluation mechanism is implemented through three main components, including:

(1) Regulatory Decision of the National Social Protection Council on the implementation of the social protection system monitoring and evaluation mechanism, which is a legal standard to determine the obligations and principles in the implementation of the mechanism and indicators to be reported.

(2) Manual for the Social Protection Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanism, defines the level of logical framework, input, output, outcome, principle and impact indicators.

(3) Social Protection Monitoring and Evaluation Management Information System is customized to facilitate data entry, calculation and presentation of actual results of each indicator.

The process of data entry from the reporting unit into the Monitoring and Evaluation system.
Through these components, relevant ministries and institutions, which are the reporting units, must set goals for each indicator in accordance with the strategic plan of the ministries and institutions to ensure effectiveness during the implementation and as a basis for assessing the work progress in accordance to the goals set within the National Social Protection Policy Framework.

**Logical Framework of Social Protection Monitoring and Evaluation**

This social protection monitoring and evaluation mechanism uses quantitative, sectoral and qualitative methods to compile data such as service statistics, budgets, expenditures, as well as administrative payment data. All data will be used for analysis and calculation of various results, such as the ratio of administrative and administrative costs, the cost for each beneficiary in each program or scheme, etc. The national household surveys, which includes the Cambodian Socio-Economic Survey and the Cambodian Demographic and Health Survey, will promote the assessment of indicators related to poverty reduction, vulnerability and inequality.
The Benefits of Monitoring and Evaluation

The benefits of monitoring and evaluation, using a specific mechanism include:
- Provide regular feedback on the implementation of each national social assistance program or social security scheme.
- Identify problems that may arise and be able to make recommendations as solutions.
- Review the implementation process and results of each national social assistance program or social security scheme.
- Evaluate the achievement in comparison to the goals of each national social assistance program or social security scheme.
- Measure the benefits of each national social assistance program or social security scheme based on information from specific indicators.
- Incorporate stakeholder perspectives on enhancing participation, ownership and accountability.

The manual for the social protection monitoring and evaluation mechanism of the National Social Protection Council published and available on the website (www.nspc.gov.kh) as well as the official Facebook page of the General Secretariat of the National Social Protection Council (www.facebook.com/camnspc) describes the mechanism in detail and raises awareness of social protection indicators, definitions, roles and responsibilities of the reporting unit so that this mechanism is implemented in accordance with the principles and definitions. This Manual will also facilitate monitoring and evaluation related work, which reflects the effectiveness, transparency and efficiency of investment in the Royal Government’s social protection system.