

Memorandum of Understanding

Between

The Agence française de développement (AFD)

*and*

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH  
on behalf of German Development Cooperation (GDC)

*and*

The World Health Organisation (WHO)

*and*

The International Labour Organization

**on collaboration concerning social health protection in Cambodia**

***1. Background***

This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) builds upon the existing collaboration between agencies in country in the spirit of the Social Health Insurance Consortium and refers to the Providing for Health Initiative (P4H), launched in Geneva July the 17<sup>th</sup> 2008. The Initiative's principal objective is "to strengthen health systems – their organization, governance and financing- by putting appropriate social health protection mechanisms in place with a view of achieving universal coverage." P4H follows the principles of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness (2005) and the Accra Agenda for Action, adopted on 4 September 2008.

Social health protection aims at addressing the problems of restricted access to health services for a vast majority of people in developing countries and catastrophic health expenditures for the poor. One principal avenue to overcome the access deficits and the risk associated with catastrophic health expenditure is the creation and extension of sustainable systems of social health protection, based on values of universality, equity and solidarity.

The global and country-level collaboration adds value by creating important synergies through shared resources and expertise which enable a faster and broader response to countries' requests. It is a joint endeavour to improve effective collaboration and coordination in order to:

- improve effective access to affordable quality health care and financial protection in case of sickness, and
- increase the effectiveness and efficiency of sustainable and comprehensive social health protection systems.

## ***2. Rationale***

This MOU is the translation of the global collaboration into country coordination, activities and targets amidst active parties in the area of social health protection.

The overall goal of the in-country collaboration is to support the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) in its efforts to ensure access to equitable, quality health care for all people of Cambodia following relevant policy and strategic documents.

Building upon in country cooperation between involved parties within the social health protection area, the signatories of this MoU (“parties”) further enhance their collaboration to reinforce the capacity of the RGC in order to improve access to basic quality health care for all at an affordable price (universal coverage).

Social health protection mechanisms contribute to improve the quality of care and to strengthen the health system service delivery. P4H and this collaboration propose to scale up social health protection as one answer to the health systems strengthening (HSS) challenge faced by developing countries. Assessment tools and standards for referral hospitals, health centres and private health providers have to be regularly reviewed and improved, and the establishment of an accreditation board is yet to come.

The parties will collaborate in providing technical assistance, institutional strengthening and capacity development to the relevant institutions at the national, provincial and district levels.

### ***3. Scope of the Collaboration***

The parties coordinate their efforts in:

1. providing policy advice for the formulation of national plans for social health protection as well as technical support for sustainable and efficient implementation of social protection mechanisms and institutions responsible for covering health risks,
2. exchanging experiences in the areas of social protection in health and sustainable health financing in Cambodia,
3. capacity development at the policy and implementation level concerning different methods of social health protection and advocacy and communication, targeted to various stakeholders,
4. developing models and generating evidence for scaling up social health protection mechanisms, including use of monitoring and evaluation and performance assessment tools,
5. providing technical support to government and social health protection institutions for applying for funds from global financing institutions and other sources,

### ***4. Description of Activities***

#### *Policy advice and technical support*

The parties will coordinate their efforts in providing advocacy and technical assistance to the Cambodian institutions responsible for social health protection aligned with national policies and strategies. There is a particular need to closely coordinate technical assistance at the institutional level between the various parties.

*Experience sharing*

The parties will exchange relevant information on social health protection issues. For this purpose, they will regularly meet to discuss and exchange lessons learnt from the field and the national level in order to support social health protection most effectively and efficiently in different geographical areas and for diverse target groups.

*Capacity development*

The level of awareness and capacity in social health protection is a major constraint for moving fast on the track of universal coverage. The parties will coordinate their efforts in providing capacity development for social health protection schemes, regulators and implementers based on approved training plans.

The parties commit to support in a coordinated manner capacity-building interventions that will result in the implementation of a coherent and effective social health protection policy.

The parties commit to support in a coordinated manner social health protection schemes in order to expand capacity and disseminate good practices to relevant institutions and development partners. The establishment of a relevant competence centre will be explored in collaboration with other stakeholders.

*Models for scaling up*

The parties will support the RGC in their efforts of developing innovative models and scaling up successful social health protection schemes based on evidence and good practice. Particular emphasis will be placed on developing and strengthening mechanisms to improve equitable access to quality health services for the whole population.

To make the best use of synergies, the parties will - to the extent possible and in agreement with the Cambodian authorities - conduct joint missions in the design and appraisal stage of their respective health / social health protection programmes.

*International coordination*

The parties will coordinate their support to the government in linking national health financing systems and social health protection strategies with global institutions active in these areas.

***5. Planning and Monitoring***

The activities under this collaboration will follow the RGC's planning process and be aligned with approved operational plans and government regulations.

The detailed support intended to be provided by the parties to the RGC will be discussed at the beginning of each year. If deemed necessary, there will be meetings to mutually review the activities outlined under this MoU.

***6. Rights and Responsibilities***

All activities to be carried out under this MoU are subject to agreement between the parties and to the availability of sufficient funds and other resources. Each party is solely accountable to its own management and governing bodies.

A party may withdraw from this MoU upon the provision of an advance written notice to the other parties. The MoU may be amended in writing at any time by mutual consent.

Each party shall be solely responsible for the manner in which it carries out its part of the activities under this MoU. Thus, a party shall not be responsible for any loss, accident, damage or injury

suffered or caused by another party, or another party's staff or sub-contractor, in connection with, or as a result of, the activities.

***7. Opportunities for Expanding the Collaboration***

This collaboration is not limited to the signatories. Any organisation wanting to join the collaborative efforts may wish to express its interest to one of the parties involved. The parties under this MoU will consult with each other in such a case and jointly decide on any expansion of the collaboration.

***8. Disputes settlement***

Any dispute relating to the interpretation or application of this MoU shall, unless amicably settled, be subject to conciliation. In the event of failure of the latter, the dispute shall be settled by arbitration. The arbitration shall be conducted in accordance with the modalities to be agreed upon by the parties or, in the absence of agreement, in accordance with the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules. The parties shall accept the arbitral award as final.

For and on behalf of:

Agence française de développement (AFD)

Mr Eric Beugnot

Director

Place:

Date:

And

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH on behalf of German  
Development Cooperation

Mr Jürgen Schilling

Director

Place

Date:

And

World Health Organization Western Pacific Regional Office

Dr Shin Young-Soo.

Regional Director

Place:

Date:

And

International Labour Organization, Sub-regional Office for East Asia

Mr. Bill Salter

Director

Place:

Date: