

#### **Supplement 4. Partner programs through which IDPoor contributes to MCH**

Although the nationwide Health Equity Fund (box 2) is Cambodia's largest user of IDPoor data in the health sector, other programmes which work with IDPoor data to identify their target groups are also significant actors in MCH, developing relevant innovations that improve delivery of needed services to poor women and children. Examples are the use of **vouchers** to access MCH services and of **cash transfers** to support mothers' adherence to best practices in nutrition and prevention, as introduced respectively by the KfW Voucher Project and the USAID-funded NOURISH project. Both have had a lasting impact on national programmes and strategies: the preventive measures supported by the Voucher Project have been integrated into the HEF minimum package of benefits, and the cash transfer approach developed by NOURISH and other partners such as UNICEF and the Council for Agricultural and Rural Development has been adopted as a key strategy in Cambodia's National Social Protection Policy Framework.

**The KfW-supported Voucher Project.[1]** From 2010 to 2017 the MoH, with support from Germany through the KfW Development Bank, implemented a Voucher Project as part of the bilateral Social Health Protection Programme to boost accessibility and quality of reproductive health and other services for poor and vulnerable groups. The project, supported by community-based Voucher Promoters, particularly targeted children and women of reproductive age from IDPoor households with MCH services such as growth monitoring and safe motherhood, including long-acting and permanent family planning methods. At its height, the project was active in all districts of six provinces, with nearly a quarter of Cambodia's population, where 46.4% of Equity cardholder children under two benefitted from regular growth monitoring.

The Voucher Project accompanied HEF as of 2014 in its extension of coverage from hospitals to health centres and preventive MCH services. HEF progressively took over reimbursement to public health facilities for the preventive MCH services the Voucher Project had introduced for Equity cardholders, adding them to the most recent HEF service package.

**The NOURISH pilot project of Save the Children / USAID.[2]** This integrated stunting prevention project focuses on the "first 1000 days of life" starting in the womb. It intervenes in three provinces, where the 565 villages with the highest poverty rates were selected based on IDPoor data. NOURISH provides conditional cash transfers to Equity cardholder mothers / caretakers of children under two to stimulate increased utilization of specific health and nutrition services: antenatal care, facility-based delivery, postnatal care, growth monitoring and promotion. The project also provides vouchers for water filters, food baskets and latrines, for which co-payments are required. NOURISH is exemplary of collaboration across sectors on all levels to improve nutrition, uniquely associating health, nutrition, water, sanitation, hygiene and agriculture.

As of May 2018, 18 280 beneficiaries had enrolled for conditional cash transfers, of whom more than half received at least one payment for meeting the conditions. 4349 vouchers for water filters, 11 919 for food baskets and 577 latrine vouchers were distributed to IDPoor cardholders who provided the required co-payment. In these villages sanitation coverage reached 75%. Prevalence of stunting among children under 5 years was reduced between 2015 and 2017 from 34.3% to 28.6%.

#### **References**

- 1 Cambodia Ministry of Health. Department of Planning and Health Information. Social Health Protection Program (SHPP). Vouchers for Reproductive Health services and health services to vulnerable groups. Final Report. Phnom Penh. 2018 (Unpublished).
- 2 Save the Children, USAID. NOURISH Project: Mid-term survey report. Phnom Penh. 2018.