

ASSA Recognition Award

CATEGORY	:	Innovation Recognition Award/
ORGANISATION	:	National Social Assistance Fund (NSAF), Cambodia
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NAME OF PROJECT	:	The Cambodia Family Package Scholarship Programme: Expanding Human Capital Through Integrated Education Assistance
OBJECTIVE AND NATURE OF PROJECT	:	<p>The Family Package was officially launched by NSAF in 2024 as an integrated social assistance framework designed to deliver efficient, inclusive, and lifecycle-based support to poor and vulnerable households. Anchored in the National Social Protection Policy Framework and aligned with Cambodia's Pentagonal Strategy, the Family Package brings together several cash transfer programs under one unified platform.</p> <p>The Scholarship Programme, a key component of the Family Package, supports children from poor households to remain enrolled and successfully complete education from primary to upper secondary levels. This initiative is intended to break intergenerational poverty by ensuring equitable access to education and investing in Cambodia's future human capital.</p> <p>The project leverages a streamlined implementation model based on harmonized identification (IDPoor), integrated delivery through equity cards and digital payment systems, and updated operational procedures, including school-based registration and routine data verification mechanisms.</p>
WHY IT SHOULD BE RECOGNISED	:	<p>The Scholarship Programme under the Family Package introduces a transformative innovation in education-linked social assistance, addressing core structural barriers to educational attainment for children in poor families. Key achievements include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lifecycle-Based Support: Supports education continuity through a seamless benefit transfer from primary to secondary and high school levels. • Integrated Delivery Chain: Operates under a unified payment and registration system based on equity cards, school certification, and commune verification, improving targeting and administrative efficiency. • Human Capital Investment: Designed to eliminate early school dropout and reinforce Cambodia's strategy to promote inclusive and sustainable development.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross-Sector Coordination: Operationally linked to schools, commune offices, and financial service providers to ensure a robust and accountable delivery mechanism. • Real-Time Update Mechanism: Ensures continuity of support by requiring household updates upon school level transition, monitored at school and commune level. <p>This program deserves recognition as a replicable model for other ASSA countries working to embed education-focused conditional transfers into broader social protection frameworks.</p>
<p>SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT</p>	<p>The Scholarship Programme is one of five sub-programs under the Family Package, which currently includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cash Transfer Programme for Pregnant Women and Children under 2 Years Old • Scholarship Programme for Poor Students in Primary and Secondary Education • Cash Transfer Programme for People with Disabilities • Cash Transfer Programme for the Elderly • Cash Transfer Programme for People Living with HIV and AIDS <p>Scholarship Benefit Levels:</p> <p>Students from poor households holding equity cards receive educational stipends 12 times per year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary school: 20,000 Riels/month • Lower secondary school: 20,000 Riels/month • Upper secondary school: 30,000 Riels/month <p>Operational Design:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eligibility: Verified via IDPoor and school enrollment. • Registration: Coordinated at the school level and verified by commune/sangkat offices. • Updates: Required at school transition points (Grade 6 → 7 and Grade 9 → 10). • Delivery: Payments transferred through designated financial service providers using the equity card as account identifier. <p>Case Management & Dropout Monitoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly monitoring of school attendance is integrated into the Family Package MIS. • Commune officers and school program officers coordinate with school principals and community actors to follow up on dropouts or absenteeism. <p>Digital Transition & Expansion Readiness:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Scholarship Programme is fully embedded in the Family Package MIS.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Automatic suspension and reactivation processes ensure transparency and benefit integrity.• The system is adaptable for future expansions including linkage to vocational training support or remedial learning services.
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