



AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY PHNOM PENH

MEDIA RELEASE

Australia's International Development Assistance Program 2012-13 Cambodia

In 2012-13, the Australian Government will provide an estimated \$A94.7 million [US\$95.3 million] in official development assistance to Cambodia.

The 2012-13 Budget includes an initiative whereby Cambodia will benefit from an additional \$208.6 million being provided over four years to countries in East Asia to increase incomes, and boost health and education services for the poor.

“Australia remains committed to assisting Cambodia to overcome poverty, as demonstrated by the increase in funding of \$A17.3 million,” said Australia’s Ambassador to Cambodia, Penny Richards.

This is part of the Government’s overall commitment to increase the size of the Australian aid program to \$A5.2 billion from \$A4.8 billion in 2011-12, equivalent to 0.35 per cent of Australia’s Gross National Income.

Managed by the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), Australia’s aid program in Cambodia is focused on improving health services; upgrading infrastructure; increasing agricultural production and rural incomes; and promoting access to justice. Australian assistance to Cambodia in 2012-13 will continue to fund health facilities, train health practitioners, assist in the rehabilitation of Cambodia’s National Railway and road networks, enable poor farmers to increase their agricultural productivity and improve community safety and crime prevention.

“By 2014-15, Australia aims to have helped the Government of Cambodia to achieve its goal of having 80 per cent of all births in Cambodia attended by trained health staff, and 85 per cent of the population having access to health financing and health insurance. By 2016, Australia will have helped 230,000 poor Cambodian farmers to increase their incomes,” Ambassador Richards said.

From 2012 to 2015 Australia will help Cambodia to implement a National Crime Database and a Court Register to strengthen the administration of law and justice nationwide. Australia will also continue to support the removal of landmines from 35 square kilometres of land.

“Australian assistance to landmine clearance and community awareness has helped Cambodia to reduce the number of landmine casualties by 76 per cent, from 875 in 2005 to 211 in 2011,” Ambassador Richards said.

Consistent with commitments made, the Australian Government also released a new Comprehensive Aid Policy Framework on 8 May 2012. The Framework articulates a four-year vision for Australian aid that sets out how much Australia will deliver, where and why by 2015-16.

This will enable the Australian Government to work together with Cambodia to better plan and implement aid investments more effectively over the next four years, delivering better results for the people of Cambodia.

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