



**AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY
PHNOM PENH**

MEDIA RELEASE

AUSTRALIA RESPONDS TO THE FLOOD CRISIS IN CAMBODIA

Australia will help to deliver lifesaving assistance to families affected by the current flood disaster in Cambodia.

Foreign Minister Kevin Rudd today announced a grant of up to AU\$2 million to respond to the escalating flood crisis in Cambodia. The package provides support to people affected by the floods including food, water and shelter. The package also includes support for longer-term food needs as the impact of the flooding on rice crops becomes clearer.

“Widespread flooding from successive tropical storms in the Mekong region of Southeast Asia has caused significant damage and loss across Cambodia” said Penny Richards, Australia’s Ambassador to Cambodia.

“Sadly, at least 247 people are known to have died and more than one million people across 17 provinces in Cambodia have been affected by the flooding. We express our sincere condolences to the families who have lost their loved ones.

“Transport networks, farms and crops have been badly damaged. On-going flooding in many areas continues to keep people from their homes and is destroying their livelihoods.

“There is also a risk of disease outbreaks because of contaminated water supplies and damaged sanitation systems.”

Australian support will be directed through partner organisations with a track record in providing disaster response and recovery services in the most affected areas and to the most vulnerable people.

Specifically, Australia’s contribution includes up to AU\$1 million for Australian non-government organisations (NGOs) and the International Federation of the Red Cross to support the Cambodian Red Cross to deliver food, water and shelter and a further AU\$1 million for the World Food Programme to help address on-going food needs caused by the significant loss of crops across the country.

Media Enquiries: Dave Gordge, First Secretary, 023 213 470
Australian Embassy Phnom Penh
18 October 2011