



Australian Embassy
Cambodia

MEDIA RELEASE

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AUSTRALIA SUPPORTS LOCALLY-LED COMMUNITY PROJECTS ACROSS CAMBODIA

Today, Australia announced funding of AUD7.9 million to fund 26 Australian Non-Government Organisations (NGO), working in partnership with Cambodian organisations, to deliver 49 community projects throughout all Cambodian provinces.

The announcement was made by Mr Andreas Zurbrugg, Deputy Australian Ambassador to Cambodia, at the “Australia-Cambodia NGO Consultation 2023” to over 70 local and international civil society organisations.

For nearly 50 years, the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP) has provided annual grants to accredited Australian NGOs and their local partners to deliver cost-effective projects that have a direct, tangible impact on communities.

In addition to receiving grants from the ANCP program, the Australian NGO partners also raise funds from the Australian community and mobilise public support and voluntary contributions for their projects.

Some of the partners receiving grants this year include:

- APHEDA to eliminate asbestos-related diseases and improve working conditions for women
- ChildFund Australia to improve learning outcomes for 11 primary schools in Prey Veng’s Kampong Trabaek
- CUFA to enhance the entrepreneurial capacity of over 600 micro-businesses
- Fred Hollows Foundation to provide around 1200 people with cataract surgery or eye disease treatment
- Marie Stopes International Australia to enhance the capacity of local partners providing family planning and sexual and reproductive health services
- Plan International to expand their school learning gardens to 41 new target schools
- Save the Children to reduce the incidence of violence against children and women by increasing male engagement
- Sight for All to support 4 Cambodian ophthalmologists to undertake a 2-year fellowship to improve eye health in Takeo and Ratanakiri
- WaterAid to increase access to WASH services for persons with disabilities and women in Kampong Chhnang

Mr Zurbrugg noted “Australia highly values the expertise and networks of NGOs throughout Cambodia and their contributions to Cambodia’s development over the decades. As part of civil society, they play an important function in complementing the government’s role in development, especially for remote and vulnerable communities.”

“The consultations are part of a series of discussions we will be having in the coming months as we develop a new Development Partnership Plan to set the long-term direction of our development cooperation with Cambodia. We will be engaging with Cambodian Government, academia, business, civil society and other development partners to seek their advice and views,” said Mr Zurbrugg.

Last month Australia released a new international development policy which set out over 30 commitments to deliver a more effective, responsive, transparent and accountable program. This includes a reinvigorated approach to country strategic planning, through new Development Partnership Plans.

The Development Partnership Plan is an opportunity for us to take stock, listen to our partners, and calibrate our settings to ensure we are responding to the greatest challenges facing Cambodia and maximising the effectiveness of our development cooperation program.

Further information on the ANCP program is available here:

<https://www.dfat.gov.au/development/who-we-work-with/ngos/ancp/australian-ngo-cooperation-program>

Media enquiries: Media.Cambodia@dfat.gov.au



Word Vision-supported farmers harvesting green mustard. S’ang district, Kandal province.



An eye examination conducted by an ophthalmic nurse student during her community clinical placement. Kampong Tralach district, Kampong Chhnang province.