

Australian Embassy

Cambodia

MEDIA RELEASE

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CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF THE AUSTRALIAN NGO COOPERATION PROGRAM

This year is the 50th anniversary of the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP) – one of Australia's longest-running aid programs.

ANCP supports accredited Australian NGOs and their local partners to deliver community projects that have a direct, tangible impact.

From modest beginnings in 1974, ANCP now funds around 60 NGOs to deliver more than 400 projects in 50 countries, benefiting nearly 5 million people.

In Cambodia, this year ANCP is providing AUD7.7 million to support 26 Australian NGOs and their local partners to deliver 47 projects across Cambodia.

Some of the partners receiving grants this year include:

- APHEDA to reduce asbestos-related diseases and improve working conditions for women
- Caritas to improve climate-resilient agricultural practices in Ratanakiri and Stung Treng
- ChildFund to improve learning outcomes for children with disabilities in rural Battambang
- Credit Union Foundation Australia to enhance the entrepreneurial capacity of micro-businesses
- Fred Hollows Foundation to provide cataract surgery and treatment to those who cannot afford them
- Marie Stopes to improve the accessibility and quality of sexual and reproductive health services
- SeeBeyondBorders to improve the quality of teaching and use of educational technology in Battambang and Siem Reap
- WaterAid to improve water, sanitation and hygiene services in Kampong Chhnang hospitals

The partners also raise funds from the Australian community and mobilise public support and voluntary contributions for their projects.

Ambassador Derek Yip said that 'Independent evaluations consistently find ANCP has an impact and reach far beyond its annual funding, and we have decades-long relationships with local organisations and communities here'.

'We greatly appreciate all the hard work of our Australian NGOs and their local partners. A robust civil society plays an important role to complement and support the work of government, particularly in remote areas and with vulnerable communities'.

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

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