

**AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY
PHNOM PENH**

MEDIA RELEASE

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Australia and Germany support historic cash transfer for poor households

Australia and Germany are pleased to be supporting the Royal Government of Cambodia's emergency cash transfer program for poor and vulnerable households during COVID-19.

Australia and Germany see this initiative, launched today by Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, as a historic moment for Cambodia. We are proud of our longstanding support for the Ministry of Planning's Identification of Poor Households (IDPoor) Program, which will enable the implementation of this important initiative.

Cambodia's first large scale cash transfer program is possible thanks to the IDPoor Program. Australia (A\$14m) and Germany (EUR 6.1 million) have been working with the Ministry of Planning, through GIZ, for over ten years to build and maintain this unique Cambodian system for identifying poor and vulnerable households.

The IDPoor database is updated regularly and currently 560,000 households (2.3 million Cambodians) are eligible for the new cash transfer.

"As a neighbour and friend of the Cambodian people, Australia has a stake in Cambodia's economic resilience and a strong commitment to working with a broad range of partners to develop practical ways of improving the lives of all Cambodians," said His Excellency Pablo Kang, Australian Ambassador to Cambodia.

"We congratulate the Royal Government of Cambodia for utilising the IDPoor database, which Australia has helped to establish over the past decade, in order to target cash transfers towards those most in need," said Ambassador Kang.

"In a joint effort with our Cambodian partners, we managed to add more than 50,000 new families to the IDPoor database this month, using a new system – called On Demand IDPoor – that enables families to be identified and added to the database year-round, without having to wait for scheduled updates," said Dr Günter Riethmacher, GIZ Cambodia Country Director. "On Demand IDPoor will continue to be available as a permanent feature of IDPoor," said Dr Riethmacher.

"Cambodia has successfully managed the health crisis and is now dealing with its socio-economic impact. The planned cash-transfer is a very effective instrument: It targets those in need and at the same time accelerates consumption, which helps the overall economy. I am proud that with support from Germany and Australia the Cambodian Government has now a system in place to assist directly poor and vulnerable people," said His Excellency Christian Berger, German Ambassador to Cambodia.

Australia and Germany are both committed to continuing to work with the Royal Government of Cambodia, civil society and private sector stakeholders towards a social protection system that supports a more resilient community, in which all citizens are able to participate in economic and social life.

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Photo 1 caption: His Excellency Pablo Kang, Australian Ambassador to Cambodia, and Mr Benjamin Knödler, German Deputy Head of Mission, observe an On-Demand-IDPoor interview of a potential beneficiary by a Village Representative Group member in Prey Veng.

Photo credit: GIZ/Conor Wall



Photo 2 caption: A single mother and her son with their IDPoor equity card in urban Phnom Penh

Photo credit: GIZ/Conor Wall