



## AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY PHNOM PENH

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### AUSTRALIAN SUPPORT FOR HIV TESTING AND PREVENTION SERVICES

Australia is investing AUD11.65 million to increase the availability and uptake of HIV testing and prevention services amongst key populations in the Indo-Pacific. In Cambodia, this new investment will support community-led organisations to improve prevention and testing services and address inequality, stigma, and discrimination for people living with HIV.

Today the Australian Embassy's Deputy Head of Mission Mr Andreas Zurbrugg and Dr Khin Cho Win Htin, Acting Country Director for the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) together with H.E Dr Tia Phalla, Vice Chair of National AIDS Authority, and Dr Ly Penh Sun, Director of National Center for HIV/AIDS, Dermatology and STD (NCHADS) were pleased to launch Australia's new partnership with UNAIDS. With Australian support, this partnership will strengthen HIV prevention through the Indo-Pacific HIV Prevention Programme 2021–2023.

"Australia is a global leader in the fight against HIV. During the pandemic, now more than ever, these community-led organisations can help innovate, deliver and be essential service providers for both the HIV and COVID-19 responses" said Andreas Zurbrugg, Australian Embassy's Deputy Head of Mission.

Cambodia's HIV response serves as a model in the region – in 2017 Cambodia was one of seven countries globally to achieve the ambitious international diagnostic and treatment targets. But there is more work to do to help ensure prevention programs continue to reach key populations, especially those who are hard to reach.

"Our decades-long fight against HIV in Cambodia and our renowned successes are rooted in a focus on innovation, respect for human rights and gender equality, community-based solutions and political commitment and leadership of the Royal Government of Cambodia. We need to double-down our efforts to end AIDS in Cambodia" said H.E Dr Tia Phalla, Vice Chair of National AIDS Authority

Australia's investment will support Cambodia's efforts to reduce the number of new HIV infections by: working to remove policy, legal and regulatory impediments to access quality prevention and testing services; building capacity and supporting community organisations reach key populations; and increasing access to quality services to maximise health outcomes for key populations.

"We are at a defining moment for Cambodia HIV response – running the last mile towards ending AIDS, while maintaining our achievements made in 90-90-90 treatment targets. We need to ramp up prevention services for key populations through innovation and maximize equitable access to a range of prevention services" added Dr Ly Penh Sun, Director NCHADS.

Dr. Khin Cho Win Htin, Acting Country Director UNAIDS Cambodia noted that "UNAIDS is looking forward to partnering with Australia to increase the availability and uptake of HIV testing and prevention services amongst key populations in Cambodia. She added "as we continue to fight a global pandemic, we are reminded that supporting essential health services, such as HIV prevention, is crucial to protecting the health and combatting the inequality faced by those living with HIV."

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