



AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY PHNOM PENH

MEDIA RELEASE

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AUSTRALIA CONTRIBUTES TO FLOOD RELIEF EFFORTS

Today, Australian Ambassador to Cambodia, His Excellency Pablo Kang travelled to Kampong Thom to support flood relief efforts coordinated by Cambodia's National Committee on Disaster Management and presided over by His Excellency Lieutenant General Hun Manet.

More than 6,000 farmers in Kampong Thom Province have been impacted by this year's severe flooding, with around 12,000 hectares of crops destroyed. Already vulnerable from COVID-19 economic impacts, this is a major setback for Cambodian farmers.

The Cambodian National Committee on Disaster Management is distributing rice seed to support farmers for next season's planting. To complement this, the Australian Government through the CAVAC program, is donating 20 Eli Seeders to the Provincial Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries for use by farmers in the Province. The Cambodian-designed Seeders reduce the amount of seed that farmers need to plant, saving farmers up to \$250 per hectare, 40 days of labour and increasing yields.

This is part of Australia's broader contribution to current flood relief efforts valued at \$80,000. Through the ACCESS Program, the Australian Government will be distributing food and hygiene packages to 1,000 households where persons with disability reside. And working with the Australian Water Association, the 3i Program is planning to rapidly deploy 10 high capacity water treatment systems to health centres in affected areas.

"As a country also prone to drought and flood, we know how devastating natural disasters can be for communities" said Ambassador Kang.

"As a friend and neighbour, we want to do whatever we can to help Cambodians get back on their feet after the floods as we have done after previous natural disasters in Cambodia. Helping farmers to prepare for the next planting season, will ensure that they can start getting their livelihoods back on track"

Australia has been supporting the development of Cambodian agriculture for more than 25 years.

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