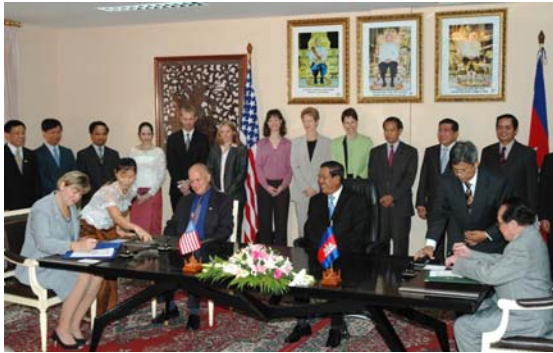

USAID HIGHLIGHTS

USAID Provides Over \$34 million for Health and Education in Cambodia

Phnom Penh, Cambodia

August 25, 2008



USAID Mission Director Erin Soto and Cambodian Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Hor Namhong sign for their respective governments. U.S. Ambassador to Cambodia Joseph A. Mussomeli and Samdech Hun Sen, Prime Minister of Cambodia, presided over the event.

The U.S. Government and the Royal Government of Cambodia signed amendments to two bilateral agreements on August 25 that will provide \$34.3 million in 2008 funding from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to support Cambodian priorities in health and education. The new funding brings to nearly \$200 million the amount that USAID has provided in support of health and education in Cambodia since 2002.

The amendment to the first agreement consists of nearly \$32.2 million in grant funds to achieve health objectives. Funds will be used to promote a variety of activities to reduce the transmission and impact of HIV/AIDS; to prevent and control major infectious diseases such as tuberculosis; to improve maternal, reproductive, and children's health; and to strengthen Cambodian public-health systems, including the technical skills of health care workers.

The amendment to the second agreement will provide over \$2 million in grant funds to support the Cambodian government's education objectives. These funds will support ongoing programs aimed at improving the quality of basic education and access to schooling for all children, including minorities, individuals with disabilities, and the very poor. Activities will also focus on implementing the new national curriculum and learning standards, reducing school dropout and repetition rates through improvements in teaching quality, and measuring student academic achievement.

In addition to health and education activities, USAID supports a broad range of programs designed to benefit all Cambodians, including human rights, rule of law, local governance and decentralization, anti-corruption, natural-resource management, private-sector development, and combating trafficking in persons. USAID expects to commit \$57.5 million in assistance to Cambodia in 2008.