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### USAID Provides Mosquito Nets to Young Prisoners

Phnom Penh, Cambodia  
June 1, 2008



PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA – The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) last week provided over 650 mosquito nets to youth and pregnant women serving sentences in Cambodia’s prisons. The donation was made in an effort to raise awareness about the harsh conditions young inmates face in the country’s jails.

The Cambodian League for the Promotion and Defense of Human Rights (LICADHO) and other NGOs distributed care packages containing the mosquito nets to prisons in 12 provinces and Phnom Penh. In addition to the mosquito nets, the packages also contained essential items like food, toiletries and drinking water. The inmates received the care packages on Sunday, June 1, International Children’s Day.

“I am happy with the mosquito net, because there are many mosquitoes in my cell and my mother cannot buy a net for me,” said a 16-year-old boy serving a one-year sentence in CC2 prison outside Phnom Penh.

Conditions in Cambodia’s prisons are harsh. Mosquito-borne diseases such as dengue fever and malaria are common, as are poor sanitary conditions and lack of clean drinking water. Inmates live on \$0.40 of food per day. Nearly 50 of the 650 youth who received the care packages are innocent children who, because they have nowhere else to go, are living with mothers serving jail terms.

USAID provided \$300,000 this year in support of LICADHO’s work in Cambodia’s legal system, including prison monitoring, human rights investigations and legal aid. USAID received the mosquito nets from the U.S. Office of Defense Cooperation.

*The American people, through the U.S. Agency for International Development, have provided economic and humanitarian assistance worldwide for nearly 50 years.*