



USAID | CAMBODIA

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U.S. Agency for International Development Signs New Agreement with Development Alternatives, Inc. to Implement the Strengthening Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise in Cambodia's Private Sector Project

On September 23, 2005 the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) signed a contract with Development Alternatives, Inc. to implement a three-year \$4.5 million Strengthening Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise in Cambodia's Private Sector Project.

The project is designed to strengthen Micro-Small and Medium Enterprise in Cambodia. USAID/Cambodia seeks to create wealth in poor communities and promote private sector growth by sustainably linking large numbers of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) into growing local, regional or international markets, and working to address the constraints posed by Cambodia's business environment.

USAID/Cambodia aims to increase sources of income for micro, small and medium sized enterprises in Cambodia in order to emphasize economic growth and improved economic governance as a conduit and driving force for development in Cambodia. USAID/Cambodia's strategy specifically states that a more effectively organized private sector can broaden and strengthen the voice of civil society within Cambodia, in part by calling for more accountable and transparent governance. It can also strengthen the ability of individual Cambodians to participate more effectively in the economic and political life of the country.

To ensure impact on growth, USAID/Cambodia's project will target sectors where the poor are concentrated, namely the agriculture and informal sectors. It will give special emphasis to family-owned rural and agricultural based micro and small businesses. The project will build upon the work USAID has done in the area of

MSME development, development credit, and a study of Cambodian MFIs. It will also work with other initiatives on the strengthening of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises in Cambodia

This three year project to be implemented in Cambodia is expected to begin in October 2005.

For more information, please contact the Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy at 023 216 436.

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