
USAID HIGHLIGHTS

USAID Provides Over \$24 million for Economic Growth in Cambodia

Phnom Penh, Cambodia
September 15, 2008



USAID Mission Director Erin Soto and Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister in charge of The Office of the Council of Ministers Sok An signed for their respective governments. U.S. Deputy Secretary of State John D. Negroponte and Samdech Hun Sen, Prime Minister of Cambodia, presided over the event.

The U.S. Government and the Royal Government of Cambodia signed a four-year bilateral agreement that will provide \$26 million in funding to support Cambodian priorities in economic growth. Of that amount, USAID will provide \$24 million in funding, and the Cambodian government will provide \$2 million of in kind support.

U.S. Deputy Secretary of State John D. Negroponte and Samdech Hun Sen, Prime Minister of Cambodia, presided over the signing.

H.E. Sok An, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister in charge of The Office of the Council of Ministers, and Erin Soto, USAID Mission Director, signed on behalf of their respective governments.

Under the agreement, the U.S. Government will provide \$8.2 million in 2008 to achieve economic growth objectives. Funds will be used to expand USAID's highly successful Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) program, which seeks to improve the productivity of rural enterprises by connecting and strengthening all levels of an industry supply chain. The new program will expand this value chain work and add two new areas of focus: strengthening the voice of the private sector and strengthening the public sector's capacity to improve the business-enabling environment.

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