



# Embassy of the United States Phnom Penh, Cambodia

## 2014 PRESS RELEASES



2

TRANSLATION: ភាសាខ្មែរ

### USAID Launches Integrated Nutrition, Sanitation and Hygiene (NOURISH) Project in Cambodia

Released on September 8, 2014



"Food security and nutrition are two of the most urgent issues that Cambodia faces," said Ms. Rollins.

project.

The mortality rate for children under 5 in Cambodia is currently 54 per 1,000 live births and nearly 35 percent of these child deaths are attributable to various forms of under nutrition. Not only do undernourished children have an increased risk of death, illness and infection but they also suffer from cognitive deficiencies, delayed development and achieve fewer years in school. Studies by the Asian Development Bank and others have also shown that malnutrition has the potential to slow Cambodia's economic growth.

A new U.S. government program, NOURISH, will combat malnutrition among Cambodian children. On September 8, Deputy Prime Minister Yim Chhayly jointly with Denise Rollins, Acting Assistant Administrator for the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)'s Bureau for Asia, announced the launch of USAID's five-year, \$16.25 million Integrated Nutrition, Hygiene and Sanitation



"Food security and nutrition are two of the most urgent issues that Cambodia faces," said Ms. Rollins "We are confident that this project, carried out in close collaboration with national and local authorities, will help to reduce the level of malnutrition in Cambodian children, giving them a healthy, start that will lead to a more successful life."

USAID's NOURISH program, to be implemented by Save the Children, will benefit approximately 500,000 Cambodians in rural communities in Battambang, Pursat, and Siem Reap. NOURISH is part of a larger effort by the U.S. government to improve nutrition through the Feed the Future Initiative's increased agriculture diversification and productivity; access to food including school feeding; education on hygiene and sanitation; and, improvements to

the health system that cares for children and mothers, including construction of new clinics and medical labs, and training of professional medical staff.

NOURISH will have a particular focus on pregnant women and children under the age of two and will promote food diversity and food quality as well as improving local access to sanitation facilities, hand-washing, and water filters. NOURISH will also provide pre- and post-birth services at health facilities and growth promotion programs at health centers and in the community.

### **About the U.S. Agency for International Development**

USAID was founded in 1961 by President John F. Kennedy and serves as the lead agency of the U.S. Government for foreign assistance. Since 1992, USAID has invested approximately \$1 billion towards Cambodia's development.

For more information on USAID's NOURISH project please contact:

**Erika Lutz, MPH**

Chief of Party, NOURISH

Save the Children/Cambodia

Email: [erika.lutz@savethechildren.org](mailto:erika.lutz@savethechildren.org)



This site is managed by the U.S. Department of State. External links to other Internet sites should not be construed as an endorsement of the views or privacy policies contained therein.