



គណៈកម្មាធិការ
សហប្រតិបត្តិការដើម្បីកម្ពុជា
Cooperation Committee
for Cambodia
Comité de Coopération
Pour le Cambodge

ទស្សនវិស័យ: ការអភិវឌ្ឍប្រកបដោយនិរន្តរភាពសម្រាប់ប្រទេសកម្ពុជា
Vision: Sustainable development for Cambodia

Open Letter to Development Partners in Cambodia

On managing challenges related to the crisis presented by COVID-19

20 May 2020

Dear Development Partners in Cambodia:

We are writing on behalf of more than 500 organizations in Cambodia affiliated the Cooperation Committee for Cambodia (CCC), provincial NGO networks, and Community Based Organizations across Cambodia regarding your commitment to the global fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

We are encouraged by your leadership in supporting civil society and the Government of Cambodia to effectively tackle the crisis over the past two months. We believe that many of your respective countries have shown good examples of how to effectively address the COVID-19 pandemic while also observing human rights and democratic principles.

At a time of global crisis such as the one presented by this this pandemic, public trust and partnership between civil society and development partners is essential in promoting ODA effectiveness while coping with the dramatic socio-economic and institutional impact of and government response to the COVID-19 crisis.

From dozens of online consultations with our members, provincial NGO networks and community based organizations as well as a survey conducted by CCC on impacts of COVID on civil society organizations, we have learned that civil society organizations have delayed implementation on their programming, and lack flexibility to use existing funds to address the crisis. At the same time many of us received more pressure from legal requirements such as tax law, and labor law and target communities and groups/individuals have a greater demands for our support as they try to cope with the

socio-economic challenges presented by job loss expected to affect up to one million Cambodians and their families.

Given this new reality, we would like to call on all of you, as the managers of ODA to Cambodia and to your governments to:

1. Increase ODA and other humanitarian assistances to help the Government of Cambodia and Civil Society organizations, and individuals in combating COVID-19 while requiring adherence to human rights and democratic principles.
2. Increase your moral, political and financial support to promote and protect civic space and to strengthen the role of civil society in tackling adverse consequences of COVID-19.
3. Take concrete actions as early as possible to enable CSOs to operate on the ground. The actions should include redirecting existing funds and/or provide funding flexibility to partners so that they may address the crisis. This could also include allowing for no cost extensions, and where possible to topping up additional funds for existing partners to respond accordingly to needs of the most vulnerable during what is expected to be a protracted economic downturn and even crisis in Cambodia.
4. Promote and support local initiatives and products by increasingly strengthening capacity, technology transfer, and tariff free exports of all Cambodian goods that enable Cambodians to have proper employment to support their livelihoods, live in dignity, and overcome the negative socio-economic impacts of COVID-19.

We are aware that you and your governments are still facing many of challenges in addressing the social and economic impacts of the COVID-19 within your own countries. However, your leadership and continuous support the poorest and most marginalized Cambodians, including people living with disabilities, women and children and particularly those directly affected by the current crisis is critical to have during this time.

We would like to assure you that we are ready to work with you in inclusive partnership with our full support and cooperation in the global effort to manage COVID-19 and its devastating impact.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. Soeung Saroeun

Executive Director, CCC