

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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## LAUNCH OF THE AUSTRALIA-CAMBODIA COOPERATION FOR EQUITABLE SUSTAINABLE SERVICES PHASE 2

Today Australian Ambassador Justin Whyatt along with Cambodian ministers launched the second phase of the Australia-Cambodia Cooperation for Equitable Sustainable Services (ACCESS 2) program.

Her Excellency Dr Ing Kantha Phavi, Minister for Women's Affairs, His Excellency Professor Chheng Ra, Minister for Health and His Excellency Chea Somethy, Minister for Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation and President of the Disability Action Council joined Ambassador Whyatt to sign the Memorandum of Subsidiary Agreement of the ACCESS 2 program.

The program marks a continuation of Australia's flagship bilateral investment in disability inclusion and gender-based violence response and prevention in Cambodia. Over five years (2023 – 2028), Australia will commit AUD 30 million to improve the quality and coordination of service delivery for survivors of gender-based violence and persons with disabilities in Cambodia.

"ACCESS 2 reflects Australia's strong commitment to support disability-inclusive development and gender equality in our region. These are core Australian values and a top priority in Australia's new international development policy," said Ambassador Whyatt.

ACCESS 2 will continue working with national and sub-national level government and non-government organisations (NGOs) to ensure that persons with disabilities and survivors of GBV have access to the services they need.

Through 13 UN and NGO implementing partners, ACCESS 2 will continue working with Cambodia's Ministry of Women's Affairs, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation to implement the Royal Government of Cambodia's National Action Plan for the Prevention of Violence against Women (NAPVAW) and the National Disability Strategic Plan (NDSP).

For more information about the ACCESS 2 program, please visit <a href="http://www.access2cambodia.org">http://www.access2cambodia.org</a>

Media enquiries: Media.Cambodia@dfat.gov.au