



## USAID/CAMBODIA



--transitioning from relief and rehabilitation operations to a program focused on sustainable growth and development for the long term.



## A Cambodia Sketch

Cambodia's development challenge is formidable. Ranked 140<sup>th</sup> of 174 countries on the United Nations Development Program's Human Development Index, Cambodia's social and economic indicators resemble those of western nations a century ago. Annual per capita GDP is less than \$300; 84% of Cambodians live in rural areas where life is hard and cash is scarce; life expectancy is only in the mid-50s, with infant, child and maternal mortality rates the highest in Asia. Since World War II, Cambodia has been torn by strife and civil war, the worst of which by far was the brutal Khmer Rouge regime led by Pol Pot which devastated the country and its people. Years of war and neglect have ravaged the country's physical infrastructure and decimated its human resource base. Both are just now being rebuilt. For the first time in 30 years, there is no fighting in Cambodia. A window of opportunity is open, and the potential is great.

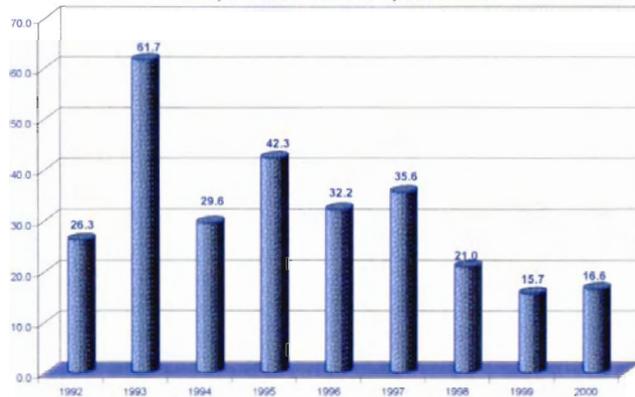
## Program History

In September of 1951, the United States signed with Cambodia, at the time a nominally independent country within the French Union, a bilateral agreement for U. S. economic and technical assistance. This first phase of assistance up to 1963 consisted primarily of commodities and financial support. After an eight-year suspension, USAID returned to Cambodia in 1971. From that time until the April 1975 evacuation when Pol Pot entered Phnom Penh, the US provided over \$500 million to Cambodia, again, mostly in commodities and financial support. In 1986 USAID re-initiated humanitarian assistance to Cambodia by supporting two Cambodian resistance groups in the northwest part of the country from across the border in Thailand. With the signing in 1991 of the Paris Peace Agreement, the U. S. moved forward to support, first, the 1993 elections, and following that, to establish a USAID office and bilateral program. Program emphasis was gradually shifting from relief and rehabilitation to long-term sustainable development when the events of July 1997 resulted in a scaled-down program restricted to support to NGOs. Those restrictions remain in effect.

## Funding

As the figure to the right shows, the total funding since 1992 is \$281 million. Levels have varied greatly year-to-year and have fallen dramatically in recent years. If levels do not increase in FY 2001, the current program will have to be cut dramatically, a reduction that will require termination of many promising starts.

USAID ASSISTANCE TO CAMBODIA  
(in million of dollars) 1992-2000



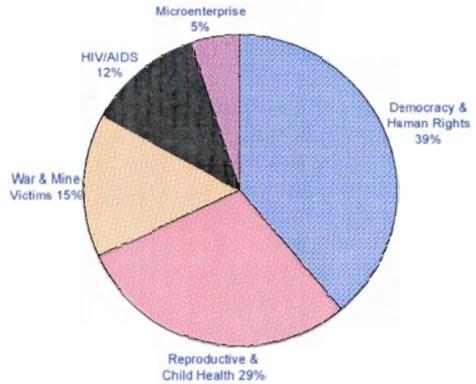
## Program Focus



As the pie chart shows, USAID's program emphasis is in democracy and human rights, health, capacity-building (especially of NGOs), and, in the earlier years, roads. Other areas receiving assistance are war and mine victims, HIV/AIDS and microenterprise. Education, basic human needs and demining received assistance in the past but are not currently part of the program.

## Key Accomplishments

Development and strengthening of indigenous NGOs has been and continues to be a cornerstone and cross-cutting theme. USAID has supported or supports one-quarter of the 250+ NGOs in Cambodia.



## Democracy & Human Rights



- Successful support to the 1998 elections, resulting in a 93% voter turnout
- Provision of legal aid through a public defenders program in 83% of the country's courts
- Human rights monitoring activities in 23 of 24 provinces in Cambodia

## Maternal & Child Health



- Key MCH services provided to more than 250,000 women and children annually
- A doubling of contraceptive use in three years from 11% to 22% in a target area
- Increase in access to clean water from 13% to 30% of the population of a remote project area

## War and Mine Victims



- Over 5,000 prosthetics, orthotics or wheelchairs produced and fitted annually
- Capacity built to provide these services to those in need
- Over 1,000 poor or orphaned youth annually provided technical training and job search help

## HIV/AIDS



- 12.9 million condoms sold in 1999, a 600% increase since 1994
- 26 community-based organizations trained to provide AIDS education and care
- Nationwide HIV prevalence monitoring systems functioning

## Microenterprise



- 12,500 village banks established for rural and urban poor
- In 1999, 90,000 clients received loans totalling \$5.5 million
- 90% of loans went to women

## PROGRAM MILESTONES SINCE THE 1980s

- In 1986, USAID initiated humanitarian support to two Cambodian non-Communist (CNC) groups in northwestern Cambodia. Known as the Northwest Area Development program, it was administered by the Office of Khmer Affairs in Bangkok.
- Funding under the Northwest Area Development Program provided support to the CNC groups in the form of medical equipment and supplies, transportation, food, and training to support community development and health care.
- With the signing of the Peace Accords in 1991, the USAID program shifted to a more traditional emphasis, providing humanitarian and rehabilitation assistance to meet the basic needs of Cambodians nationwide.
- Between 1991 and 1993, USAID's objective was to support the Paris Peace Agreement and the process leading up to and immediately following the May 1993 elections. Since there were no bilateral relations between the U.S. and Cambodia, the USAID program was implemented through private contractors and private voluntary organizations, as well as international organizations.
- In 1992, responsibility for the USAID/Cambodia program shifted from Bangkok to a newly established Office of the AID Representative in Phnom Penh.
- With the success of the May 1993 elections, Cambodia emerged with a new democratically elected Constituent Assembly. With the formation of a new government, the United States normalized relations with the Royal Government of Cambodia and upgraded its Mission to a full Embassy in September 1993.
- A USAID bilateral program was formally established in 1994.
- In 1996, the Office of the AID Representative was upgraded to a full USAID mission and USAID's program shifted its emphasis from emergency relief and rehabilitation to reconstruction and long term sustainable development assistance.
- In August 1997, in response to July political events, the Secretary of State declared an indefinite suspension of all foreign assistance to Cambodia except for humanitarian and democracy programs, pending the holding of free and fair elections.
- In July 1998, elections were held with a 93% voter turnout. Despite some irregularities and difficulties, a new coalition Government was formed in late November 1998. The August 1997 suspension remains in effect.
- The FY99 Appropriations Act placed conditions on assistance for activities or programs for Cambodia but exempted demining or activities administered by NGOs.