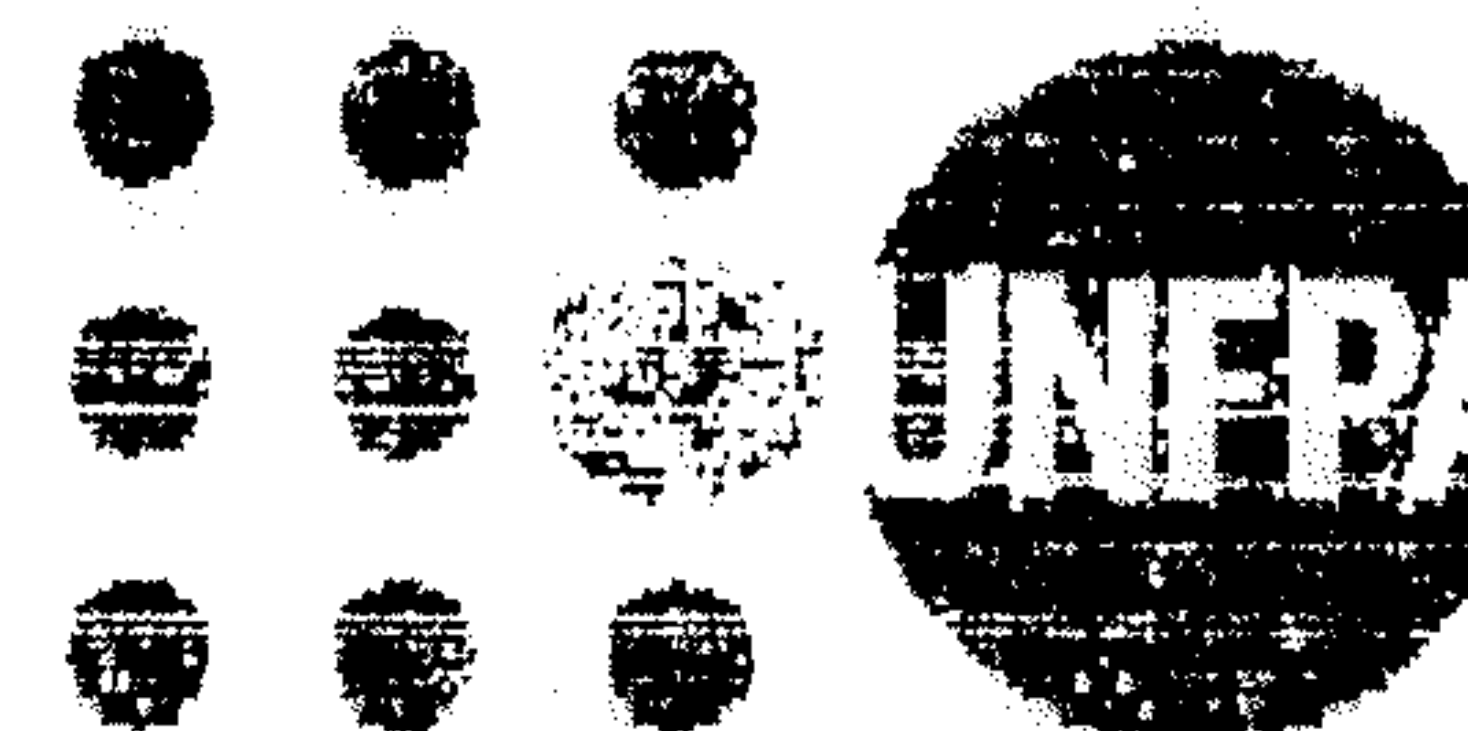




Embassy of the
Federal Republic of Germany
Phnom Penh



Press Release

Germany contributes € 1.3 M to UNFPA As part of promoting maternal health in Cambodia

October 30, 2007 at 1800 hrs

Venue: Cambodiana Hotel, Tonle Mekong Room

Phnom Penh, 30 October 2007: The government of the Federal Republic of Germany pledged €1.3 million to UNFPA Cambodia as part of its assistance to the Royal Government of Cambodia in its efforts to reduce the high maternal mortality rate in Cambodia. The grant will be channeled through the Office of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to the Ministry of Health in Cambodia. H.E Mr Frank Marcus Mann, Ambassador to Cambodia, today announced that the German financial support through UNFPA will help to improve the situation of maternal health in Cambodia and thus contribute to saving the lives of Cambodian women and babies from dying during pregnancy and childbirth.

Ms Alice Levisay, UNFPA Representative, a.i in Cambodia, stated that given that UNFPA reproductive and sexual health programme focuses on supporting Cambodia towards achievement of CMDG-5, the German funds would be utilized to support implementation of the Midwifery capacities and maternal health behaviour change interventions. The support represents yet another major step forward in narrowing critical gaps in funding, and complements other reproductive and maternal health funding and technical assistance from other development partners.

The Cambodian Demographic Health Survey (CDHS) 2005 showed a decrease in unmet need for family planning services since 2000 and the UNFPA-funded study on Obstacles to Delivery by Trained Providers indicated that most rural and remote women prefer to deliver with a trained provider in a health facility. The Midwifery Review in 2006 found that midwives are in short supply, and that midwifery technical skills and training programmes required significant improvement. For example, 51% of health centres remain without a secondary midwife and current competency levels are below 70% for all competencies observed.

The CDHS 2005 showed that maternal mortality rate is 472 per 100,000 live births and only 44 percent of births are delivered with the assistance of trained providers. While 39 percent of rural women receive delivery assistance from a trained health professional, urban women receive 70 percent.

Through this contribution, the German Government intends to support the efforts of the United Nations Population Fund to coordinate and streamline its work on the ground in promoting maternal health in Cambodia. Last year the German Government also committed € 1.3 M to UNFPA in its support to the preparation of the 2008 Census, the results of which will be critical for addressing population-related issues and achieving sustained development through effective policies and interventions.

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