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**AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY
PHNOM PENH**

MEDIA RELEASE

Press file

Australia will donate A\$2.5 million through the World Food Programme (WFP) to meet food aid needs in Cambodia in 1996.

The donation will fund the local purchase by WFP of an estimated 7,000 metric tonnes of rice to be used for Food-for-Work activities and emergency food aid.

The new Australian assistance is provided in response to the recent joint Food and Agriculture Organisation/World Food Programme crop and food supply assessment mission which found that despite the very welcome domestic rice surplus this year, food aid is still required to meet targeted food deficit needs and to build an emergency stockpile. Australia's decision to provide cash to WFP to purchase Cambodian rice in this surplus year will assist local farmers and help to stimulate the local market.

As in previous years, most of the food aid will be used for programmed Food-for-Work activities which provide food security for the most vulnerable people while encouraging community participation in the reconstruction of vital rural infrastructure, such as inter-village roads and canals.

Australia's continued contribution to reducing food insecurity in Cambodia re-affirms its commitment to assist the Royal Government of Cambodia in its efforts towards national reconstruction and development.

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