



European Union
Delegation of the European Commission to Cambodia

News Release

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European Union announces aid for victims of conflict and dengue fever in Cambodia

The European Union has announced funding worth 3.840.000 euro for humanitarian assistance programmes for victims of conflict and dengue fever in Cambodia. The funding will be apportioned by the European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO) to initiatives run by a number of non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

Programmes for victims of conflict will receive 3.500.000 euro in funding. Assistance will focus on orthopaedic services for mine victims and support for resettlement on mine-cleared lands; assistance to returnees and internally displaced persons; health; and water.

Meanwhile, 340.000 euro will help those afflicted by dengue fever in Phnom Penh and the provinces. This will fund the purchase of medicines and transfusion facilities as well as awareness campaigns designed to help combat the spread of this often fatal disease.

Announcing the new assistance, Mr. Michel Caillouët, Ambassador-Head of Delegation of the European Commission to Cambodia said, "With peace, Cambodia finds itself faced by a whole new set of challenges. The decision to fund these vital humanitarian programmes marks a continuation of the European Union's commitment to play an active role in helping Cambodia build for the future, as it emerges from a turbulent past."

With the objective of enlarging access to health care for victims of conflict, the EU funds will allow ECHO to continue to support the National Health Plan, primarily at a district and commune level in isolated and remote areas. Assistance will also be provided to health related programmes of a number of NGOs including: Action Against Hunger; the Dutch and French operations of Medecins sans Frontiers; Healthnet; Movimondo; and Catholic Relief Service.

Basic health care such as mother child care, provision of medicines and medical equipment and training of local medical personnel will be made available in remote regions including the newly accessible areas of Anlong Veng, Phnom Malai and Samphoe Loun. Structures such as health centres and buildings at the district level will be rehabilitated and the blood bank in Battambang hospital maintained.

Support for Medecins du Monde's AIDS HIV prevention programme in Phnom Penh will be provided for a further six months while ECHO will also respond to the malaria epidemic in the north of the country by supporting the IFRC's programme to provide mosquito nets and insecticide in newly accessible areas.

The support of returnees and internally displaced persons will be targeted in Preah Vihear, Battambang, Bantey Meanchey and the newly accessible communes in Siem Reap. In order to improve the food security situation of the target populations "food for work" programmes are to be implemented in coordination with

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